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contents

1 Cover Story



A Tough Neighbourhood 26

South Asia: Hot Spots 32

2 People & Events

Current Affairs 45

PPP Power in Pakistan 46

Nepal becomes Republic 46

A New Nation in Europe 48

Iran Prez in Iraq 48

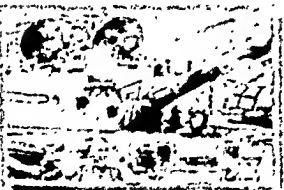
Medvedev Succeeds Putin 48

A Red to Head Cyprus 50

Cuba After Fidel 50

Zapatero Wins Again 50

A New PM in Australia 50



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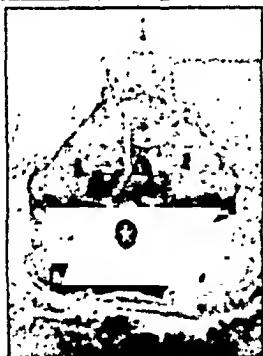
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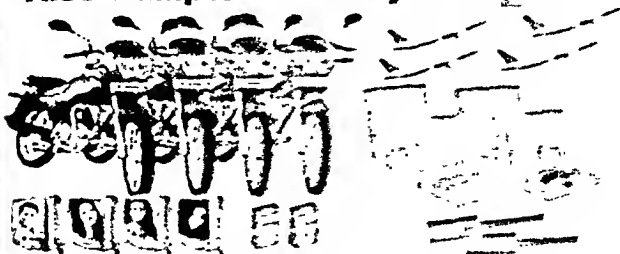
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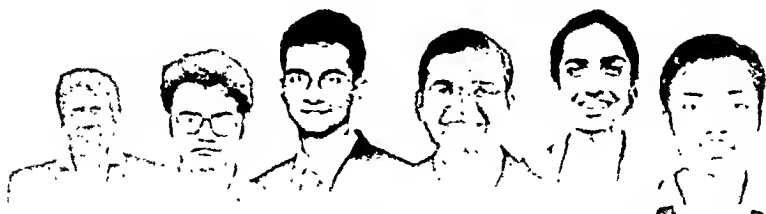
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COVER STORY

process has been on the back burner as Pakistan was going through its convulsions after the President dismissed the Chief Justice. India took the earliest opportunity to resume the peace process and the composite dialogue by the visit of the Minister of External Affairs in May 2008. The response from Pakistan was not unhelpful, but the limitations of the leadership were evident during the visit.

India-Pakistan relations took a nose-dive after India discovered that the Pakistani intelligence had a role in the bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. Pakistan also violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control repeatedly in July and August 2008. A meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries was held in July, but India publicly acknowledged that the peace process was in danger on account of Pakistan's terrorist activities. Pakistan's hand was suspected in the serial bombings in Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Delhi.

When he was elected President after he broke up with Nawaz Sharif, Zardari neither gave up the powers enjoyed by the previous Presidents, nor reinstated the Chief Justice. The old democratic structure of three power centres (President, Prime Minister and the Army Chief) emerged again. In an interview to the 'Wall Street Journal' in October, Zardari stated for the first time that there was no threat to Pakistan from India and that terrorists were active in Kashmir. He also stressed the importance of trade and economic relations between India and Pakistan. This appeared to be a major departure from Pakistan's policy, but the Government of Pakistan clarified very quickly that there was no change in its policy towards Kashmir. It remains to be seen whether the statement by President Zardari was merely tactical in his efforts to secure massive financial assistance for Pakistan from the United States or

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the use of water for mutual benefit. It also has to prevent smuggling of cheap Chinese goods along the Indian border. The size of the army and the role of the Maoist Peoples Liberation Army (MPLA) are issues of special importance. Prachanda himself has to give up the post of the Supreme Commander of the MPLA before he assumes state responsibilities. India has to remain vigilant against Nepal turning into a pro-Chinese nation on our borders. Innovative ways of cooperation in response to Nepal's needs at this critical time should be the way to have Nepal as a friendly neighbour. This will be an important challenge to our diplomacy.

Bangladesh

The suspicion that a terrorist group from Bangladesh may be behind the Jaipur blasts of May 2008 shows how far Bangladesh has come since 1971 when Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation with the help of India. The post-Mujibur Rahman leadership has maintained varying degrees of hostility towards India. The caretaker Government, which came



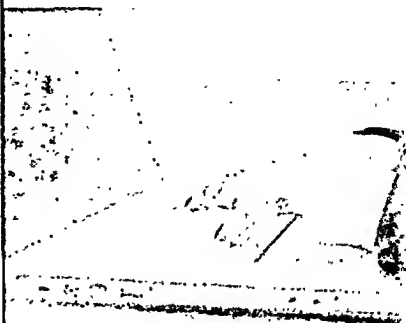
Khaleda Zia inspects guard of honour

to power with the support of the army, has promised elections before the end of 2008, but the army's aspiration for power and the lack of coordination between the Government and the Election Commission have cast doubts on the feasibility of early elections. The two major political leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia face criminal charges. The caretaker



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was rallying against him. He had exiled two former Prime Ministers after taking power in a bloodless coup in 1999. Both Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sherieff had regrouped themselves, even though rules of the game framed by Musharaff denied them an opportunity to participate in elections, due to criminal cases pending in Pakistan courts. Musharaff was a different kind of dictator, who had allowed media freedom and had cracked down on madrasas by ordering foreign students out of the country. Yet his bloody operation against students and militants holed up in the Lal Masjid madrasa of Islamabad, just a couple of kilometres from the President's House went awfully wrong, as the operation was seen as a crackdown on Islam. His attempts to muzzle an increasingly assertive and annoying judiciary and media led to a long democratic movement, which helped Benazir and Sherieff plan their return to Pakistan. But the returns were horrible. Benazir's rally on arrival in Karachi led to carnage by a suicide bomber though she survived this attempt. Sherieff, who returned from eight years of exile, was not allowed to leave the airport and bundled off to Saudi Arabia sparking off widespread support. Meanwhile the pro democracy movement and pressure from his principal backer United States had made Musharaff shed his uniform and appoint General Ashfaq Kayani as the Army chief. Kayani remained totally neutral in the stand-off between Musharaff and his political opponents, allowing the conduct of a free and fair election after a long time. Yet terror struck again as Benazir Bhutto was assassinated at the end of an election rally in Rawalpindi in December 2007, plunging the country into chaos. Though Musharaff blamed the elusive Taliban leader Baithullah Mehsud for the

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and his family plunged the country into anarchy as the successor King Gyanendra was unpopular and his heavy crack-down against the Maoists was a miserable failure. Large parts of Nepal were not under the King's control, and when he yielded power to civilian politicians again the damage to the monarchy was complete. The national mood was for a republic and the king was asked to leave the Narayanhiti Palace, where he and his ancestors had reigned for over 250 years. Amidst the turmoil, which included the refusal of the Maoists to give up arms, democracy triumphed in the landlocked country. As the Maoists got slightly better off than the Seven Party Alliance, India encouraged the Madhesis, living in Southern Nepal who have stronger links with India, to assert themselves so that the country could get a Madhesi president. The red carpet was laid out for the Maoists Prime Minister Prachanda, who had hid himself from Nepalese spies in an East Delhi suburb few years earlier. As Prachanda has advocated equal friendship with India and China, India is focusing on developing the Nepalese links further.

Democracy in Bhutan

Change was smooth and bloodless in neighbouring Bhutan. King Jigme Singye Wangchuk who had ruled the hermit kingdom for 35 years took the initiative to introduce parliamentary democracy which would be guided by the monarchy. He laid out a comfortable timetable for the conversion from a monarchy, and in the bargain abdicated his throne, and his son Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk became the King. The only troublesome issue for Bhutan was the agitation for better status by refugees from Nepal. Bhutan had also co-operated with Indian army to flush

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parties. But the strong anti India rhetoric favoured by Begum Zia has been replaced with a more moderate approach of the Administrator Fakruddin Ahmed.

Rajapakse's Military Campaign

Sri Lanka, India's closest maritime neighbour has gone through more trouble, ever since the first ethnic attacks against Tamils in 1983. Even as the 25th anniversary of the troubles were observed, the Sri Lankan army had achieved remarkable successes under president Mahendra Rajapakse, who had launched an aggressive military campaign against the LTTE, which once controlled the entire northern and eastern regions. But Rajapakse reversed the conciliation and ceasefire policy of his predecessor Chandrika Kumaratunga as well as one time



Chandrika with Rajapakse

prime minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, and made hot pursuit of LTTE as his policy. He wooed the Eastern commander Karuna to revolt against LTTE supremeo V Prabhakaran. The LTTE found its base shrinking, even as it launched its own "air force", destroying half the planes of Srilankan Airways in Colombo airport. Even as LTTE suicide bombers targeted Rajapakse's ministers including two of the President's brothers, the military offensive has surprised the world, as for long the sri lankan army was merely a decorative army with no fighting temper.

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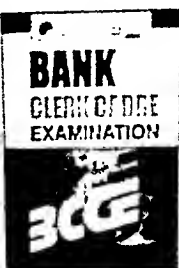
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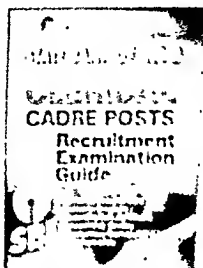
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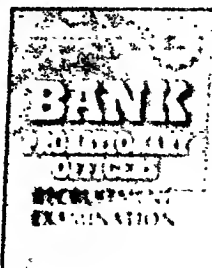
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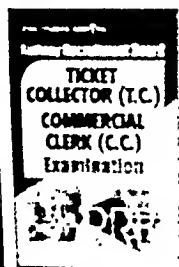


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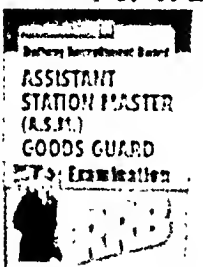


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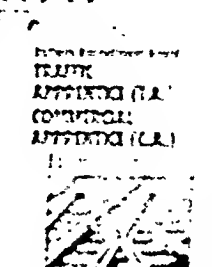
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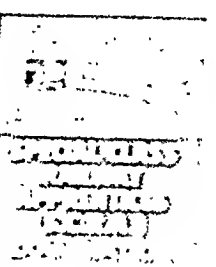
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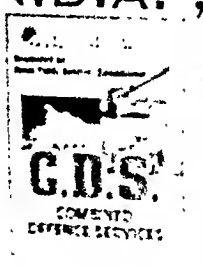


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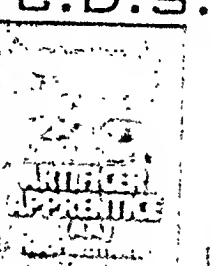
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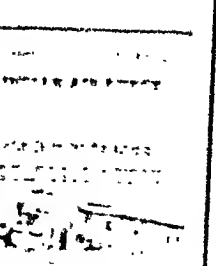
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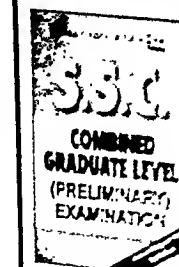


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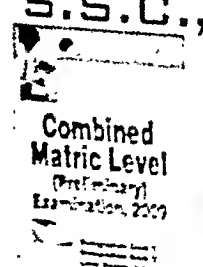


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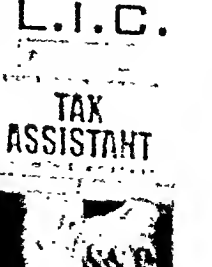
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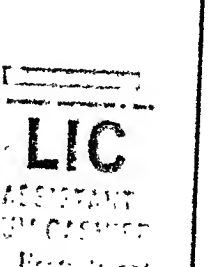
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Islam Se-Malaysia. Anwar himself won a landslide victory in a by-election in August, marking a triumphant return to parliament more than a decade.

An Ex-Bishop to lead Paraguay

Fernando Lugo, the leader of the left-ist Patriotic Alliance and former Roman Catholic bishop became Paraguay's president, ending 61 years of conservative rule in the South American country. In the presidential election held in April 2008, he defeated Blanca Ovelar of the ruling Colorado Party, crushing her dream of becoming Paraguay's first woman president. Lugo had been suspended from his religious order by the Vatican in 2006 for his entry into politics.

Berlusconi Back to Power

Silvio Berlusconi, 71, one of Italy's richest men and the head of a business empire that spans media, advertising, insurance, food and construction, and includes the leading football club AC Milan has be-



Silvio Berlusconi

come the country's prime minister for a third time. In the parliamentary election held in April 2008, the right-wing coalition led by his new conservative People of Freedom (PDL) defeated the cent-left

coalition led by the former Rome Mayor, Walter Veltroni's recently formed Democratic Party (PD) with a huge margin.

This is Italy's 62nd government since the World War II. Berlusconi had served a brief stint in 1994 and a record-breaking term between 2001 and 2006. The polls were held this time three years ahead of schedule following the collapse of Prime Minister Romano Prodi's 23-months' old centre-left coalition which had a wafer-thin majority in parliament.

King leads Bhutan to democracy

Bhutan's first ever democratic election in March 2008 gave a landslide victory to one of the two parties. The Druk Phuensum Tshogpa, or Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party won 44 out of 47 seats with the People's Democratic Party taking the remaining three seats. Peace and Prosperity Party leader Jigmi Thinley thus became the country's first elected Prime Minister. The US educated Thinley had twice been premier under the previous royal governments.

The democratic process in Bhutan was started by King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who abdicated in favour of his son Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck in December 2006 with an order to end absolute monarchy. The 28 year old, Oxford-educated Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck remains as head of state.

Disaster in Myanmar

The first cyclone of the 2008 season in the northern Indian Ocean caused untold death and destruction in Myanmar. The cyclone Nargis which tore across the country in May killed more than one

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The first person to walk to both poles was Robert Swan of UK. He reached the South Pole on Jan. 11, 1986 and the North Pole on May 14, 1989. Erling Kagge of Norway is the first person to reach the South Pole after a solo trek on Jan. 7, 1993. His journey from Berkner Island took 50 days.



Cyclone Nargis

lakh people and left and many more were homeless. Electricity and drinking-water supplies were wiped out in many areas.

Almost all of the deaths occurred in the Irrawaddy river delta region, where more people were killed by the tidal wave than the cyclone itself. Myanmar's ruling Junta was criticised for failing to organise evacuations ahead of the cy-

clone, ineptness of its relief efforts and for obstructing the arrival of foreign aid. India's meteorological department had warned them about Nargis two days earlier. Despite the disaster, the junta went on with its referendum to ratify a new constitution legalising military rule.

Turkey Back from the Brink

Turkey was saved from political chaos when the country's Constitutional Court decided no to ban the Islamist-rooted ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) for undermining secularism. Though six of the court's 11 judges in July 2008 voted in favour of banning the party, the ruling could not be implemented as it was one short of seven required. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's party was accused of seeking to replace Turkey's secular system with a regime based on Islamic Sharia.

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ing away in the early 1990s. There had also been clashes in Abkhazia. Tensions in both regions began to escalate after Saakashvili was elected Georgian president in 2004, on a promise to re-unite the



Mikhail Saakashvili

country. Russia said it acted to defend Russian citizens in South Ossetia, and its own peace keepers stationed in the breakaway region.

Motlanthe Replaces Mbeki

Kgalema Motlanthe, the deputy leader of the ruling African National Congress has been elected South Africa's third president. He replaced Thabo Mbeki who was sacked from the post by the party in September 2008. The immediate cause of Mbeki's dismissal was his ongoing feud with his former deputy and the current ANC President Jacob Zuma. Earlier, a High Court while throwing out the corruption charges against Zuma on procedural grounds had accused Mbeki of political interference in the case.



Kgalema Motlanthe

Mbeki who succeeded Nelson Mandela in 1999 as President had sacked Zuma from the post of Deputy President in 2005 on suspicion of corruption in an arms deal even before Zuma was charged. Mbeki's

attempt to become the ANC President for a third term was defeated by Zuma in December 2007. As the new leader, Zuma is the ANC's chosen candidate for the next presidential election to be held in 2009. Though the new President Motlanthe is not well known as either

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Mbeki or Zuma, he is a leading figure in the ANC and had spent 10 years in jail along with Mandela.

Unrest in Tibet

A tidal wave of protests against the Chinese government swept across Tibet in



Monks protest

2008. It began with demonstrations on March 10 which marked the 49th anniversary of the failed uprising in 1959. The protests began when 300 monks demanded the release of other monks detained earlier, but soon after, political demands surfaced and the protest turned violent. Tibetans attacked non-Tibetan ethnic groups. Rioting, burning and looting followed.

The disturbances revealed the breakdown of Beijing's Tibet policy at a time when China was seeking to convey an image of harmony in the buildup to the August Olympics. The unrest happened during the week when major local government leaders were away for the annual National People's Congress in Beijing.

India

Terror Strikes India Again

Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Delhi-four major Indian cities became targets of terrorist bomb attacks within four months in 2008. More than 150 people were killed and many more injured. With this a shadowy outfit that label itself as Indian Mujahideen emerged as the biggest threat to the Indian State. It is said to be an offshoot of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India, and is linked to the Pak-aided terrorist group Lashkar-e-Toiba.

On May 13, a series of nine blasts over a span of 15 minutes claimed 63 lives,

and injured 216 in Jaipur. The second series of nine bomb blasts took place on 25 July in Bangalore, and claimed 2 lives, while injuring 20. The next day, on 26 July in Ahmedabad, a spurt of 21 blasts killed 56 people and injured over 200.

On September 13, a series of five synchronized bomb blasts took place within a span of few minutes in at various locations in Delhi-Gaffar Market in Karol Bagh, Connaught Place, and M-Block Market in Greater Kailash, killing 30 injuring over 100. Four bombs were also defused at various places in the city. Just a fortnight after, the Mehrauli area

A New Word Every 98 Minutes

The English language is set to reach its one millionth word within a year, perhaps by April 2009. A new English word is created every 98 minutes. The number of words now stands at 995,844. The newest word is e-Vampire, which means electric equipment that consumes energy while in standby mode.



Ahmedabad blast

of New Delhi also became the target of terrorist attack. Two people were killed 20 injured.

On September 19, the Delhi Police shot down two terrorists in an apartment in Jamia Nagar. Two were arrested while one managed to escape. Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who was injured in the encounter, has died in a hospital. He was credited with helping to kill 35 terrorists, 85 arrests and also the winner

Fake Drugs

About 23 per cent of the world's counterfeit drugs are produced in the West African country of Nigeria. Pakistan is reported to be the source of about 15 percent of such drugs.

of 75-odd encounters, 150 medals and seven gallantry awards.

Several persons suspected to be part of the Indian Mujahadeen's were arrested from different parts of the country. These Indian cities have been particularly chosen by the terrorists as they represent some of the most economically vibrant areas of the country. While investigating the blasts in Ahmedabad, the Gujarat Police on August 15, had claimed to have busted the pan-India network of the SIMI.

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Attacks on Christians

An unprecedented and systematic anti-Christian attacks carried out in a number of states in India in 2008 tarnished the secular image of India. It started in Orissa in August and the flames spread to Karnataka in September. Orissa had never seen such a brutal and widespread communal violence as the one which occurred in Kandhamal district. The carnage began after a VHP leader and his four associates were shot dead for which police blamed the Maoists and the Sangh Parivar accused militant Christians. Over the next two weeks, thousands of houses belonging to the Christians were looted and burnt down by the VHP and Bajrang Dal men. Scores of churches and prayer houses were set on fire.

In Karnataka, many churches were vandalized in Bangalore, Mangalore, Udupi, Chikmagalur and Kolar. In Uttarakhand two Christians including a woman, were found murdered in September. Some churches were attacked in Kerala also.

Mahendra Kumar, the state convener of the Bajrang Dal who claimed responsibility for the attacks in Karnataka was arrested after the state government was sternly admonished by the Centre. The Central Government hit out at both the state governments for their failure to control the violence and issued a warning under Article 355 that it would be compelled to take action against them if violence did not cease. The National Commission for Minorities has blamed Bajrang Dal for the communal violence in both the NDA-ruled states.

Nano Goes to Gujarat

After months of uncertainty, the Tata Motors pulled their Nano small car factory out of Singur in West Bengal. The Rs 2,000 crore project has now a new home in Sanad in Gujarat where it would have a 500,000 unit capacity compared to 300,000 for Singur.

Tata's October 2008 decision to exit from West Bengal was a huge blow to the Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhat-



Tata with Nano

tacharya's ambitions of sparking an industrial revival in the state. Chairman of the Tata Motors, Ratan Tata while praising the Chief Minister's pro-industry policies, blamed the Opposition Trinamul Congress leader Mamata Banerjee for the pull out. Claiming to speak on behalf of those whose land had been acquired for the project, the Trinamul Congress had been running an agitation outside the factory forcing the work to come to a stop. Two security guards were also beaten up. Protracted negotiations involving Mamata Banerjee, the state gov-

Delhi

Legend has it that Delhi acquired its present name from Raja Dhilu who resigned over its territories in the first century B.C. 'Dhilli' occurs in written texts from A.D. 1170.

ernment and the governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi came to nothing. was scheduled to hit the roads in October.

Within days of exiting from West Bengal, the Tatas decided to relocate the The 1 lakh Nano car project to Gujarat after scouting several states including Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

Crisis In Kashmir

For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, the two parts of the state exploded in anger simultaneously in 2008. The crisis began in May when the Congress-led state government issued an order allotting a tract of forest land for Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board during the annual pilgrimage. The allotment was cancelled in July following mass uprising in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir valley, on the ground that the diversion of forest land for the construction of facilities for hundreds of thousands of pil-

grims could threaten the fragile ecological balance in the mountainous area.

This in turn attracted violent agitation in the Hindu-dominated Jammu where the protesters blocked the only road link connecting Kashmir to the rest of India. The blockade which stopped supplies of food and medicine also re-ignited unprecedented protests in Kashmir. The situation became under control in August the governor administration concluded a pact with the Amarnath Sangharsh Samiti, an amalgam of various Hindu organizations. The agreement accords the Board exclusive rights to use 100 acres of forest land in the Kashmir valley during the annual pilgrimage for temporary shelters and toilets.

A Doctor In Jail

In April 2008, Dr. Binayak Sen, 56, one of India's best-known public health specialists and human rights activists was

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Neuphiu Rio sworn

party in the new Assembly, the other constituents, the BJP and the NCP could secure only two seats each. The Congress won 23 seats.

New CM in Meghalaya

Meghalaya's Congress-led government stepped down in March 2008 to pave way for a new alliance of regional parties to take over. It took place barely 10 days after the leader of the Congress-led Meghalaya United Alliance, D.D. Lapang was hurriedly sworn in as Chief Minister of a minority government. He was given 10 days to prove his majority which he could not do? Meghalaya Progressive Alliance chairman and leader of the United Democratic Party, Donkumar Roy is the new Chief Minister. He was Deputy Chief Minister in a former Lapang ministry when his party and other regional parties were partners in the Congress-led coalition.

Second Stint for Yeddyurappa

Scripting a new chapter in Karnataka's political history, a BJP ministry led by B S Yeddyurappa was sworn-in in May 2008. This is his second innings as Chief Minister, a post from which he was top-

pled six months earlier, a week after assuming office when BJP's erstwhile ally, Janata Dal (S) withdrew support. With this came the end of a six-month long President's Rule in the state which was imposed after the fall of Yeddyurappa's first government.

BJP emerged victorious at the Assem-



Yeddyurappa

bly elections winning 110 seats, but it fell short of a simple majority, necessitating to seek support of the independents. Congress and JDS got 80 and 28 seats respectively.

Govt Hikes Salaries

The Central Government in August 2008 accepted the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission to grant substantial hike to its 50 lakh employees. They will get an average increase of 21 per cent in their salaries with retrospective effect from January 1, 2006. The minimum basic salary pay will be Rs 7,000 per month which will translate to around Rs 10,000 after adding allowances. The government also increased the rate of annual increment from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent.

The report of the Sixth Pay Commission headed by Justice (Retd) B. N. Srikrishna was submitted in March. Protests from the employees against some of the recommendations forced the gov-

The Biggest Disaster of All Time

A scathing attack on GM Crops was launched by Prince Charles calling them 'the biggest disaster of all time'. On Aug. 12, 2008 the Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre on application seeking moratorium on allowing the cultivation of any genetically modified crop in the country.

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an Era of Change in the US

Obama is President

Democrat Barack Hussein Obama, the United States Senator from Illinois, is the new occupant of the White House - the first Afro-American to become US President. He beat Republican John McCain, 72, on Nov. 4.

Obama, born on Aug. 4, 1961, is the first African-American to be nominated by a major American political party for president. A graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he became the first black person to serve as president of the Harvard Law Review, Obama worked as a community organizer and practised as a civil rights attorney before serving three terms in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004. He taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School from 1992 to



2004. Following an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the U.S House of Representatives in 2000, he announced his campaign for the U.S. Senate in January 2003. He was elected to the Senate in November 2004 with 70 percent of the vote.

Obama announced his presidential campaign in Feb. 2007 and was formally nominated at the 2008 Democratic National Convention with Delaware senator Joe Biden as his running mate.

The Bradley effect didn't work out at the epochal election. Obama appears to have transcended racial barriers. A new era of Democratic dominance opens up. As history's most costly campaign ended, the entire world waited with excitement to see a transformation in US foreign policy.

ernment to constitute a committee under the cabinet secretary to study their complaints.

LF Pockets Tripura

The CPI(M)-led Front stormed back to power for the fourth consecutive time in Tripura, winning a three-fourth majority in the 60-member Assembly in March 2008. The LF increased its tally to 49 seats from 41 it had won in 2003. The CPI(M) gained three-fourth majority on its own bagging 46 seats while its allies, RSP won two seats and the CPI one.

The tally of the Congress-Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT) alliance stood reduced to 11 from 19 it had won in 2003 (Congress 10 and INPT



Jyoti Basu, Manik Sarkar

one). The Party for Democratic Socialism, another ally of the Congress failed to win a single seat. CPI(M) leader Manik Sarkar was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tripura for the third consecutive term.

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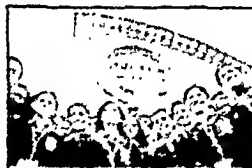
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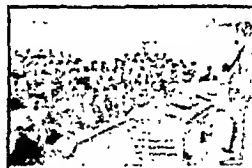
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Where they Rest

Mahatma Gandhi	Rajghat	Rajiv Gandhi	Veerbhoomi
Jawaharlal Nehru	Santhivan	Morarji Desai	Abhayghat
B.R. Ambedkar	Chaityabhoomi	Gulzarilal Nanda	Narayanghat
Indira Gandhi	Sakthisthal	Jagjivan Ram	Samathasthal
Charan Singh	Kisan ghat	Lal Bahadur	
Zail Singh	Ekthasthal	Shastri	Vijayghat

1947: Pakistan is born.

1948: Governor-General Muhammad Ali Jinnah dies. Pakistan attacks India in Kashmir

1951: Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan assassinated

1958: Army Chief Ayub Khan seizes power

1965: Second war with India

1969: Ayub Khan resigns. Army Chief Yahya Khan assumes power

1970: First general elections

1971: East Pakistan becomes independent Bangladesh. Pakistan attacks India. Yahya Khan replaced by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as President

1972: Bhutto and India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sign Shimla agreement.

1977: Army Chief Zia ul-Haq seizes power from Bhutto

1979: Bhutto hanged in murder case

1988: Zia killed in air crash. Benazir Bhutto becomes first woman Prime Minister of a Muslim nation

1990: Nawaz Sharif elected Prime Minister

1993: Benazir becomes Prime Minister again

1996: President Farooq Leghari dismisses Benazir

1997: Sharif returns to power

1998: Pakistan conducts nuclear tests

1999: Pakistan attacks India in Kargil (Kashmir). Army Chief Pervez Musharraf seizes power from Sharif

2000: Sharif goes into exile in Saudi Arabia

2001: Musharraf meets Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in Agra..

2005: Earthquake kills thousands.

2007: Musharraf suspends Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry. Musharraf wins controversial presidential election. Benazir and Sharif return from exile. Musharraf declares emergency rule. Benazir assassinated

2008: Elections to National and provincial assemblies. Yusuf Reza Gilani (PPP) becomes Prime Minister. Benazir's husband Asif Ali Sardari elected President

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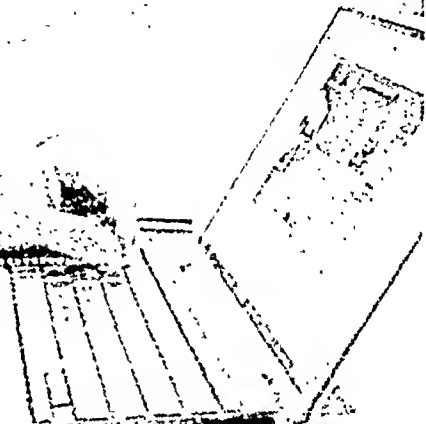
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Electronics,
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BHM Bachelor of Hotel Management

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Bachelor of Arts

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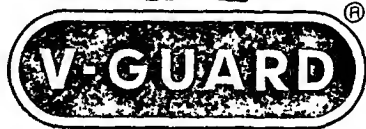


Timeline China

- 1949: Communist leader Mao Zedong proclaims the founding of People's Republic of China.
- 1958: Mao launches Great Leap Forward, a five-year economic plan.
- 1959: Chinese forces suppress large-scale revolt in Tibet. Dalai Lama escapes to India.
- 1962: China attacks India.
- 1966: Cultural Revolution, Mao's 10-year political and ideological campaign, begins.
- 1971: China replaces Taiwan in UN.
- 1972: US President Richard Nixon visits China.
- 1976: Mao dies. Gang of Four, including Mao's widow arrested.
- 1977: Deng Xiaoping emerges as leader.
- 1989: Troops open fire on demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square..
- 1989: Jiang Zemin becomes Communist Party General Secretary.
- 1993: Jiang Zemin becomes President.
- 1997: Deng Xiaoping dies. Hong Kong reverts to China.
- 1999: Macao reverts to China.
- 2001: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan - and Uzbekistan launch Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. China joins World Trade Organisation.
- 2002: Vice-President Hu Jintao becomes Communist Party leader.
- 2003: Hu Jintao elected President. China and India sign agreement over status of Tibet and Sikkim. .
- 2006: Tibet railway line, the world's highest train route opened.
- 2008: Anti-China protests escalate in Tibet. Olympics in Beijing.

Timeline Russia

- 1917: October Revolution. Bolsheviks take over Moscow.
- 1922: Russia joins the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 1991: Soviet Union collapses. Russia becomes independent.
- 1992: Russia takes up seat of Soviet Union in UN.
- 1996: Boris Yeltsin re-elected for another term.
- 1998: Yeltsin dismisses Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and appoints first, Sergey Kiriyenko and later, Yevgeniy Primakov.
- 1999: Yeltsin sacks Primakov and appoints first, Sergey Stepashin and later, Vladimir Putin. Yeltsin resigns and Putin takes over as acting president.
- 2000: Putin elected president.



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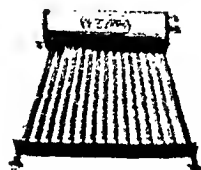
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- 2002: Chechen rebels' seizure of a Moscow theatre results in the death of more than 120 people.
- 2003: Putin-backed United Russia wins landslide victory in parliament elections.
- 2004: President Putin re-elected. More than 330 people killed when siege at school in North Ossetia ends in bloodbath.
- 2005: Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov killed in a military operation. Billionnaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky sentenced to nine years in jail for tax evasion and fraud.
- 2006: Russia's most-wanted man, Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, is killed in a military operation. Putin critic and former Russian security service officer Aleksandr Litvinenko, dies in London due to radioactive poisoning.
- 2007: Former President Yeltsin dies. United Russia party wins a landslide victory in parliamentary elections.
- 2008: Dmitry Medvedev takes over as President from Putin, who becomes Prime Minister. War erupts between Russia and Georgia

Timeline: Bangladesh

- 1947: Pakistan is born with two provinces-East Pakistan and West Pakistan.
- 1970: Pakistan's first general elections. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League, wins majority. West Pakistan's leaders refuse to recognise the results, leading to rioting.
- 1971: Awami League proclaims independence of East Pakistan (Bangladesh).
- 1972: Mujib becomes Prime Minister.
- 1975: Mujib becomes President. He is assassinated in a military coup..
- 1977: General Zia Rahman assumes Presidency.
- 1979: Zia's Bangladesh National Party wins parliamentary elections.
- 1981: Zia is assassinated during abortive military coup.
- 1982: Army Chief H. M. Ershad seizes power.
- 1983: Ershad becomes President
- 1986: Ershad elected to a five-year term.
- 1987: State of emergency declared following mass protests.
- 1990: Ershad resigns.
- 1991: Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of President Zia Rahman, becomes Prime minister.
- 1996: Awami League returns to power. Mujib's daughter, Sheikh Hasina Wajed becomes Prime Minister.
- 2001: Awami League loses at polls to Khaleda Zia's BNP-led coalition.
- 2002: President Chowdhury resigns after BNP accuses him of bias. Iajuddin Ahmed takes over as President
- 2004: Sheikh Hasina survives bomb attack which kills 22 people.

- 2006: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia completes her term. President Ahmed assumes caretaker role for period leading to elections. Awami League accuses President Ahmed of bias; announces poll boycott. Bangladesh Grameen Bank founder Muhammed Yunus wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2007: State of emergency declared amid violence in the election run-up. Poll postponed. Fakhruddin Ahmed appointed head of caretaker government.
- 2007: Sheikh Hasina, Khaleda Zia and several other politicians arrested in an anti-corruption drive.
- 2008: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Motiur Rahman arrested.

1948: Sri Lanka (Ceylon) gains independence from Britain.

1956: Solomon Bandaranaike becomes Prime Minister. Sinhala made official language.

1958: Anti-Tamil riots leave 200 people dead.

1959: Bandaranaike assassinated by a Buddhist monk. His widow, Sirimavo becomes world's first woman Prime Minister.

1965: Opposition United National Party wins elections.

1970: Sirimavo Bandaranaike returns to power.

1971: Sinhalese Marxists launch rebellion.

1972: Country's name changed to Sri Lanka.

1975: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) formed.

1977: Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) party wins all seats in Tamil areas.

1983: Civil war begins, sparked by anti-Tamil riots.

1987: India-Sri Lanka agreement signed.

1991: India's former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi assassinated by LTTE.

1993: LTTE kills President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

1999: LTTE tries to kill President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

2002: Sri Lankan government and LTTE sign cease-fire agreement.

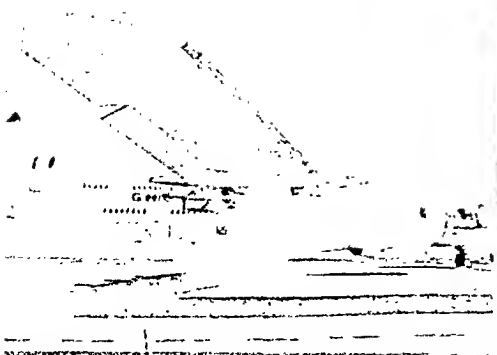
2003: LTTE pulls out of peace talks.

2005: LTTE kills Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. Mahinda Rajapakse becomes President

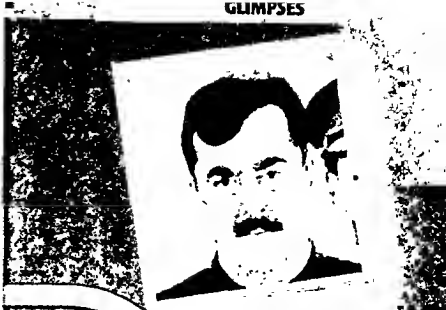
2006: Army Chief hurt in LTTE bomb attack.

2007: LTTE fighters attack Anuradhapura air base. LTTE's second-in-command S.P. Thamilselvan is killed in an air raid.

2008.: Government troops attack LTTE's administrative headquarters Killinochi



World's largest passenger jet, the Airbus A380 after landing at Nice Airport, France, June 3.



Yousuf Karzai

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Russian player Anna Chakvetadze at French Open, May 29.



Actor Deepika Padukone at (IIFA) Awards 2008 ceremony in London, June 8.



Pulijem Venu Raju wins National award for the Best Film



Calendar of Events

World

The Year That Was

2007

November

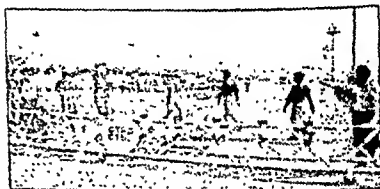
Musharraf sheds Uniform

1. International crude oil prices near \$100 per barrel.
2. LTTE's Political Division Chief Thamilselvan killed in an air attack •Floods affect 1 m. people in Mexico.
3. Pakistan President Musharraf clamps a state of emergency •Spacewalk by two astronauts from shuttle Discovery.
4. President Musharraf says judicial activism and extremism had demoralised Pakistan government, Benazir Bhutto says emergency rule will help extremists.
5. US asks Pakistan President Musharraf to return to the constitutional path •29 die in old age home fire in Russia •US and China agree to open a hotline between their Defence Ministries.
7. Seven killed in shooting in a school in southern Finland •63 killed in Sri Lanka fighting •Musharraf says elections in Pakistan will be held in February •France pledges support to US in stopping Iran from going nuclear.
9. Benazir Bhutto detained by Pakistan police.
11. UN official in Myanmar •Fierce storm in Black Sea Strait.
12. Danilo Turk is the new Slovenian President •Bangladesh joins Trans-Asian Railway network.
13. Benazir demands Musharraf step

down •The Commonwealth sets a 10-day deadline for President Musharraf to lift the Emergency.

15. Musharraf finalises caretaker government •Public sector strike paralyses France •Cyclone pounds Bangladesh's southwestern coast.

16. Muhammedmian Soomro sworn in caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan •Spice Girls perform together once again,



A scene from Pakistan during the Emergency

in Hollywood •Over 1000 die in Bangladesh super cyclone Sidr •IPCC meet at Valencia, Spain ends.

17. Bangladesh cyclone toll crosses 1000, may reach 2300 •Shia-Sunni clashes in Pakistan's tribal area bordering Afghanistan kill 45.

18. Fire in Saudi gas pipeline kills 28 •Mine blast in Ukraine kills 33 •Hashim Thaci of Kosovo Democratic party wins a parliamentary election and threatens to declare independence •Roger Federer wins his fourth Masters Cup in 5 years.

19. Khieu Samphan, former Khmer Rouge head of state, arrested •Imran Khan on hunger strike in prison.

20. Mike Tyson sentenced to 3 years

probation and one day in jail for drug possession and driving under the influence of alcohol • In an exhibition match in Seoul Roger Federer defeats Pete Sampras 6-4, 5-3 • France comes to a standstill as railway agitation enters the seventh day • ASEAN adopts a broad Charter.

21. Afghanistan to become 8th member of SAFTA from February 08 • Crude oil price rises above \$99 a barrel • Police block the main gate of deposed Cj I.M. Chaudhry's house in Islamabad • Imran Khan, released from prison.

23. Pakistan is suspended from Commonwealth • Queen opens CHOGM in Kampala.

24. Australia goes to the polls • Labour Party under Kevin Rudd comes to power in Australia • Twin suicide bombings kill 30 in Rawalpindi • Marian Jones asked to return prize money.

25. Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan from Saudi Arabia after seven years of exile • Garry Kasparov sentenced to five days in jail for violating laws regulating public assembly • Nepal's Prachanda threatens to take up arms if monarchy is not abolished • The Hindu Rights Action Force stages a rally in Kuala Lumpur, against alleged marginalisation of the ethnic Indian community in Malaysia.

26. President Musharraf to step down.

27. 22 civilians killed in bombing 'Voice of Tigers' building in Sri Lanka.

28. Pervez Musharraf presents the command baton to General Ashtaq Kayani, to take oath as President on 29th.

Sons of the Soil

Britain has said that 80 per cent of the jobs since 1997 have gone to foreigners. This calls for a 'sons of the soil' job policy.



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29. Pervez Musharraf sworn in President of Pakistan for a new five-year term, emergency to go on Dec. 16 • Siege of a hotel by renegade soldiers demanding the ouster of Philippine President Arroyo is followed by a curfew in Manila • China's forex reserves, the world's largest, reach \$1.455 trillion.

December

Benazir Bhutto Assassinated

1. Zhang Zilin, 23, of China is Miss World 2007 • Parliamentary elections in Russia • Referendum on constitution reforms in Venezuela.

2. Iran to attend GCC summit for the first time • Muttiah Muralidharan equals Shane Warne's record in test wickets.

3. Nawaz Sharif's nomination for Jan. 8 Pakistan election rejected • Muttiah Muralidharan breaks Shane Warne's record of 708 wickets at Kandy and becomes Test cricket's leading wicket-taker (710) • A man dies of bird flu in China's Jiangsu province • In Venezuela, the Chavez referendum for constitution reform is defeated.

4. Benazir and Nawaz join forces to demand a free and fair general election in Pakistan.

5. Nawaz Sharif says he doesn't aspire to become Prime Minister again • Prayer room for Sikhs at JFK airport.



Zhang Zilin

6. Yulia Tymoshenko named Ukraine Prime Minister • Nicole Kidman's wax statue unveiled in Madame Tussaud's.

8. Ebola epidemic in Uganda, 100 infected, 22 die.

9. African leaders at EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon reject Economic Partnership Agreement demanded by EU • China's largest Hydropower plant Three Gorges to produce 63.7 b. kwt in 2007 • Iran accuses US of nuclear espionage.

10. Nobel Prizes awarded • Dmitry Medvedev named Putin's favoured successor.

11. Medvedev asks Putin to be his Prime Minister • Blasts in Algiers kill 60 • Pakistan testfires a cruise missile called Hatf 7.

12. Top Lebanese military officer Brig. Gen. Francois al-Hajj assassinated • Muslim party quits Rajapaksa regime • 40 killed in Iraq blasts.

13. Russia and Iran reach agreement on nuclear plant • Garry Kasparov not to run for Russian President.

14. EU summit in Brussels • Bomb explodes outside Indian consulate in Afghanistan • Pakistan arrests Al Qaida members for allegedly plotting to kill President Musharraf.

15. Emergency rule in Pakistan lifted • Political leaders in Belgium fail to form a government after the general election of June, as it sparks speculation that the state could split into Dutch-and French-speaking regions.

16. UK to tighten immigration laws.

17. In Malaysia, 31 ethnic Indian acquitted of charges of attempting to murder a police officer during an agitation by Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf).

Job Growth in South Asia

South Asia was the world leader in job growth during 2007, contributing 28 per cent of the nearly 45 m. jobs created during the year worldwide, according to ILO.

drafi) •Russia delivers nuclear fuel to Iran
•Putin agrees to become Prime Minister
if Medvedev is President.

18. Arcelor Mittal signs pact for first
steel plant in Russia •Brazil's Kaka is FIFA
World Player of the Year.

19. Jacob Zuma is elected ANC Presi-
dent, defeating Thabo Mbeki •Pak train
crashes in Mehrabpur, killing 58 •US
Senate adds \$70b. for the wars in Iraq
and Afghanistan.

20. Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen
is told by Government of India she can't
go to Kolkata •Earthquake (6.8) strikes
New Zealand's North Island •President
Bush signs Climate Bill.

21. Gold is above \$800 an ounce in
Europe •Suicide bomber kills 50 in a
mosque near Peshawar in Pakistan •Chi-
na's first homegrown regional jet Xiang
Feng(meaning 'Flying Phoenix') rolls off
the production line in Shanghai.

A Person Goes Blind Every 5 Seconds

45 m. people around the world are blind.
Globally, a person goes blind every five
seconds; a child loses sight every minute.

22. Queen Elizabeth II becomes the old-
est, at 81, to be a British monarch •Tony
Blair becomes a Catholic •China unveils



Queen Elizabeth II

300-kmph train
•Thailand goes to
the polls.

23. UN's two-
year budget of
\$4.17b. approved
•Pro-Thaksin party
PPP leads in Thai-
land elections
•Government

moves bill to declare Nepal a republic.

24. Queen Elizabeth launches her own
special Royal Channel on YouTube.

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26. Landslips and flash floods kill over 100 in Java.

27. Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan assassinated in Rawalpindi, violence spreads



Election Campaign in Pakistan

to all parts of the country •Russia to set up a missile shield for Iran.

28. Benazir Bhutto's body laid to rest •Al Qaida claims responsibility for the assassination of Benazir Bhutto •25 LTTE rebels killed •For the 6th time, George Bush and Hillary Clinton are Americans' most admired man and woman.

30. Benazir Bhutto's son, 19-year-old Bilawal is named PPP chairman •Footballer Phil O'Donnell dies on field during a match •Election in Pakistan postponed •Rioting in Pakistan, as suspicion about the circumstances of the murder of Benazir Bhutto grows.

31. Riots in Kenya, about 100 killed.

2008

January

Hillary & Fischer are No More

1. Malta and Cyprus join the Euro Currency zone, bringing euro countries

to 15 •UNP leader T. Maheswaran shot dead in Colombo •Germany and France ban smoking in public places.

2. Oil is \$100 a barrel •Post-poll violence in Kenya.

3. World gold at \$868 an ounce •Scotland Yard to help in Butto assassination probe •Sri Lanka scraps its ceasefire agreement with LTTE, signed in 2002.

4. 300 dead and 73,500 flee tribal violence in Kenya following the disputed re-election of President Kibati; Opposition leader Odinga wants fresh election.

6. LTTE intelligence chief 'Col. Charles' killed •French President Sarkozy to marry girl friend Carla Bruni.

8. Sri Lanka Minister D.M. Dasanayaka dies in blast •Maldives President Gayoom escapes bid on his life.

9. President Bush embarks on an 8-day visit to West Asia • 27 LTTE cadres killed.

10. Lahore suicide bombing kills 22 people, mostly policemen •Iraq death toll put at 1.5 lakh •Everest conqueror Edmund Hillary, 88, passes away.



Edmund Hillary

11. FBI describes LTTE as one of the most deadly extremists in the world •China to limit the use of plastic bags from June •China's forex reserves top \$1.5 trillion.

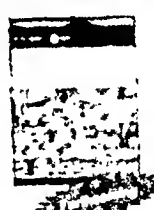
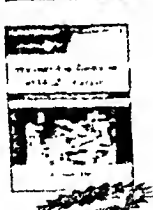
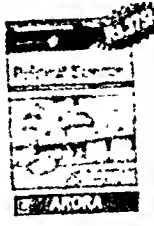
12. American Olympian Marion Jones fined for six months for lying about steroid use and involvement in a drug fraud

Most admired Man and Woman

In Dec. 2007, George Bush and Hillary Clinton were voted for the sixth time Americans' most admired man and woman.

The McGraw-Hill Companies

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se • Benazir Bhutto's niece Fatima says P need not be led by a member of the utto family • Gold tops \$900 on fears er US interest rate cut.

14. University of Minnesota researchers eate a beating rat heart in a laboratory President Musharraf rules out national overnment.

15. Australia's new government not o sell uranium to India • India and Chi-a raise trade target by 50% to \$60 b. y 2010.

16. Bus blast in Sri Lanka kills 26, as ix-year-old ceasefire comes to an end

• Pope Benedict

XVI cancels visit

to Rome's La Sapi-

enza 'varsity after

protests • Apple

comes out with

the world's tini-

est laptop • Two

protesters shot

dead in Kenya

• Paddy Ashdown

is appointed UN

envoy in Afghanistan.

17. Bhutan to hold first ever general election on March 24 • US researchers create the darkest material on Earth, a substance so black it absorbs more than 99.9% of light • Chess legend Bobby Fischer dies, at 64.

18. Bomb threat to World Bank offices • Britain wants to take relationship with China to a higher level • Pakistan denies report on its stand on Jinnah Home.



Bobby Fischer

19. Terror network busted in Spain • Teenager arrested for Benazir killing.

20. Hindu festival of Thai pusan declared a national holiday in Malaysia

• Serial blasts rock Bhutan • 30 cadres

of LTTE killed in clashes in Sri Lanka

• Kenya's John Kelai wins Mumbai Marathon.

22. Federal Reserve cuts interest rate by 75 basis points • UNICEF report says

India accounts for 2.1m of the global total of 9.7 m. children dying before

they reach the age of 5 • Stock markets tumble across the world; Bush's package

fails to reassure US economy • State funeral held in Auckland for Everest hero

Hillary.

23. US Fed rate cut stabilises Asian markets • Iraq's parliament adopts a new

flag • Sri Lanka claims to have bombed an LTTE hub frequented by V. Prabha-

karan • NASA pictures of Mars have one of a mystery female figure walking down

a hill.

24. Israel to halt fuel shipment to Gaza.

26. Maria Sharapova wins Australian Open final.

27. Novak Djokovic, 20, be comes the first Serb to win a Grand

Slam, at Australian Open • Barrac

Obama sweeps South Carolina • For

mer Indonesian President Suharto i

dead • Bird flu situation in Bangladesh

reported alarming • The five-day World

Economic Forum at Davos ends.

28. Samak Sundaravej (PPP) elected

Prime Minister in Thailand • China hav

How Obese the World Is

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in Europe and the US. Data for 2004 showed that nearly a quarter of men and women in England were obese. Another report warned that 25 per cent of all children in the UK could be clinically obese by 2050.

ing one of its coldest and snowiest winters • Prince Charles to boycott Beijing Olympics over rights abuse in Tibet.

31. Climate summit opens in Honolulu • Argentinian footballer apologises for infamous 'hand of God' goal against England in 1986 World Cup.

February

Fidel Castro Steps Down

1. 64 persons killed by twin bomb blasts in Baghdad • Microsoft offers to acquire Yahoo! for \$ 44.6 b. • Al Qaeda leader Abu Laith al-Libi killed in Pakistan.

3. Serbs vote in presidential election that will decide the fate of breakaway Kosovo province • Earthquake hits Rwanda and DR Congo, killing 28 • Rebels in Chad surround President Idriss Deby's palace • French President Sarkozy mar-

5. Prototype of 'AVG', a successor to France's TGV fast trains, with 360 kmph speed, unveiled in France • Iran regrets India's launch of Israeli spy satellite.

6. In Super Tuesday showdown in USA, John McCain rides closer to the top of Republican ticket • Maharishi Mahesh Yogi dies in the Netherlands • Chinese end the Year of the Pig and ring in the Year of the Rat.

7. A billion dollar defence deal signed by US and India for the purchase of 6 Super Hercules military transport planes from Lockheed Martin • 55 killed in tornadoes in southern US states.

8. Scotland Yard thinks that Benazir Bhutto died of an injury she sustained when her head hit the roof-opening of her car as a result of the bomb blast • Shuttle Atlantis soars into orbit after a 2-month delay.

9. Myanmar authorities announce referendum in May on a new constitution • Sri Lanka dissident leader Sripathi Sooriyaarachchidies • Ban on Islamic headscarves in universities lifted in Turkey.

11. Yahoo rejects Microsoft's buyout offer • Grammy awards won by Amy Winehouse • Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama wins Grammy for best spoken word album • Pak Ambassador to Kabul goes missing • East Timor President Horta shot and wounded by rebel soldiers.

13. Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologises to the country's 4.7 lakh-strong Aborigines for past injustices against them • Obama gets three more states in US election nominations.



President Sarkozy and Carla Bruni

ries his girlfriend former model Carla Bruni at Elysee Palace.

4. 12 killed in bus explosion in north-central Sri Lanka • Boris Tadic re-elected Serbian President.

Cookies Made of Mud

Reports emanating from Haiti, one of the poorest countries of the world, said the year 2008 saw poor people eating cookies made of mud.

14. Hizbollah declares open war on Israel •President Musharraf pledges to hold free, fair and timely elections.

15. Ex-student in Northern Illinois University kills 6 in a lecture hall •A South Korean firm receives an order for cloning a pet dog •US to shoot down a broken spy satellite hurtling towards Earth with a large supply of toxic fuel aboard •Global loss put at \$ 8 trillion resulting from US subprime crisis, Bank of America estimates •Alan Greenspan says US economy is clearly on the edge of a recession.

16. Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, declared dead 5 months after he vanished while flying in a small plane •Mandaf urges ethnic Indians in Malaysia vote against Badawi's political grouping •Sharp drop reported in Baghdad deaths in violence.

17. Suicide attacks kill 40 on poll eve in Pakistan •40 die in Pak bus mishap •Kosovo declares independence from Serbia •80 killed in Afghan blast.

18. Pak elections pass off without major incidents toward incidents •Serb-run half of Bosnia seeks independence.

19. In Pakistan, P and PML (awaz) sweep polls, with big setback for Musharraf's PML(Q)

Cuba's Fidel Castro steps down.

20. Oil touches \$100 a barrel again •Earthquake (7.3) strikes Indonesia's Aceh province •Barack Obama bags



Fidel Castro

10th consecutive victory against Hillary Clinton •Britain makes it mandatory for immigrants to pass more tests to 'prove their worth' •Serbia withdraws ambassador from Washington; UK, Germany, France and Italy recognise Kosovo.

21. UK to introduce 'migrant tax' •Thousands of Serbs held a rally to protest Kosovo's declaration of independence, while the number of nations recognising Kosovo rises to a dozen •Riots target Western embassies in Belgrade, over Kosovo issue.

22. Venezuelan plane crashes in Andes region killing 46.

24. Virgin Atlantic operates its first flight using bio-fuel •Three bankers jailed in USA for Enron-linked fraud •Presidential elections in Cuba; National Assembly elects Raul Castro as Fidel Castro's successor.

25. 'No Country for Old Men' wins best picture at Oscars •Raul Castro is the newly elected President of Cuba.

26. Cyprus has a communist head of state, Demetris Christofias.

27. Mathew Hayden of Australia let off with reprimand for calling India's Harbhajan Singh an 'obnoxious little weed' in a radio interview •UN projections say half the world's people will live in urban



The Oscar Statuette

Trains to Compete with Airlines

AGV (Automotive Grand Vitesse) heralds a new generation of faster high-speed trains that can compete with the airlines. They travel 1000 km. in three hours. AGV, a high speed train without a locomotive, uses motors located on the bogies beneath the train.

as by the end of 2008 • Earthquake (2 Richter) jolts Britain.

28. Nepal Government and United Democratic Madhesi Front sign an 8-point agreement • Thailand's deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is back.

29. Chemical Ali's execution approved • Iraq's presidency council • Israel warns 'holocaust' in Gaza after attacks • Brit-Army to recall Prince Harry from Afghanistan.

March

Violence in Tibet

1. Nicholas Burns, the American points an for the nuclear deal, quits • 33 Gazans killed in pitched battles.

2. Kosovo Prime Minister Thaci rules out partition • Iranian President Ahmadinejad in Iraq.

3. Israel ends Gaza incursion • Dmitry Medvedev wins a landslide in Russian presidential election • Iran asks US to leave Iraq • 22 LTTE cadres killed; Rajapakse says Tigers will be wiped out • According to a poll 64% of Israelis favour a negotiated peace with Hamas.

6. Warren Buffet (\$62 b.) is the world's richest man in Forbes list of billionaires, Carlos Slim (\$60 b) is second, Bill Gates (\$58 b) third, and Lakshmi Mittal (\$45 b) fourth.



Lakshmi Mittal

7. Gold drifts higher in Europe, \$984.70 an ounce

• 68 killed in twin blasts in central Baghdad • Eight students killed by a Palestinian gunman inside a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem • 38 Tigers killed in north Sri Lanka.

8. Marian Jones goes to prison • Gunman kills 8 teens in Israeli school.

9. PPP-PML (N) to form government in Pakistan.

10. Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero's Socialist Party wins elections but not an outright majority • Malaysian PM Badawi sworn in for another term.

11. 26 killed in Lahore twin blasts.

13. Oil price is \$110 a barrel and gold hits \$1000 an ounce.

14. Violence in Lhasa • Iranian elections. • Shops and vehicles set ablaze in Lhasa.

15. Over 100 Tibetan protesters killed by Chinese police during protests against Chinese rule in Lhasa, Tibetan Government in exile claims • Hu Jintao re-elected Chinese President for five more years.

16. Wen Jiabo re-elected China's Prime Minister • A plan for a 38-member Mediterranean Union agreed upon



Wen Jiabo

• Conservatives win majority in Iran.

17. Pakistan parliament opens without President Musharraf • Gold is above \$1030 an ounce in New York • New York gets its first black governor as David Paterson replaces Eliot Spitzer • China declares 'people's war' as Tibet riots spread.

18. Wen Jiabo says Tibet protests are incited by Dalai Lama; Dalai Lama offers

Afghanistan Seeks Help from Bandhan

Afghanistan has approached the micro-finance organisation 'Bandhan' founded by Chandra Sekhar Ghosh for launching micro-credit service in the country.

The first cricketer to complete 10,000 runs in ODI is Sachin Tendulkar. The first captain of Indian one day cricket team is S. Venkataraghavan. The first Indian to score an ODI century was Kapil Dev (Vs. Zimbabwe, 1983).

ODI Firsts

In Mexico City, Anand was in trouble only once in Round 13 against Alexander Griusuk of Russia but he squeaked through. Throughout the tournament, Anand demonstrated superior preparation and resourcefulness as compared to his competitors and received a royal welcome when he arrived in his hometown of Chennai being taken to his residence in a chalet. Anand had two major awards to display in his trophy cabinet. He received the Padma Vibhushan from the President and before that he was awarded the Chess Oscar as the World's best player in 2007. More than 220 chess experts from 30 countries ranked the best player for 2007, based on results. Anand won the Oscar with 130 votes. The second place was taken by Vladimir Kramnik while the third place went to Gata Kamsky for his performance in the World Cup. Anand got more first places

unified last year and there is only one time things were different. The title was usually acknowledged as champion. This for the title and Anand was not universal, however, there was a rival claim held in Tehran and New Delhi. At the Chess Federation (FIDE) championship in 2000, the Indian GM won the World winning four of them and losing none. year. He dominated the 14-round event, Championship in Mexico City late last ranked player, won the World Chess king of Mainz. Anand, the world's top-second time and emerging undisputed that of wearing the world crown for a his share of fame with two glorious feats, and again this year he continued to have and down and in the later stages of 2007 Anand. He never lets his innumerable world of Indian sport it is Viswanathan some of consistency in the up and down if there is one performer who is the epitome of consistency in the up and down

Anand Is World Champion Again

Viswanathan Anand

was exemplary. He and Sehwag provided the Indian team with crumbs of comfort but these were just not enough. The transition towards youth has already started in the ODI side and at the end of the series against Sri Lanka one could not help feeling that perhaps it was now time to for the Dilip Vengsarkar led selection committee to adopt this approach in the Test team too.

and by contrast the Indians were pathetic. Dhoni's absence was painfully felt with both Dinesh Karthik and Parthiv Patel failing to cash in on the opportunity that his opening out of the tour gave them. One player who certainly made the most of the opportunity the series opened for him was Gambhir. His approach was positive, he was consistency personified and his footwork in playing the spinners

emergencies as stockpiles of wheat drop to the lowest levels since 1980, sufficient to feed the world for just 12 weeks • Putin says NATO's induction of Ukraine and Georgia is an immediate threat to Russia.

6. Actor Charlton Heston dies • Clashes between anti-China protesters and police during Olympic torch march in London • In Zimbabwe, Mugabe's party demands vote recount.

7. Negligent driving of her chauffeur and the pursuing paparazzi killed Princess Diana, her inquest concludes.

8. IMF considers selling 403.3 tonnes of gold.

9. IOC to go ahead with Olympic torch relay.

10. Nepal goes to the polls, 60 p.c. voter turnout • Zimbabwe's opposition leader Tsvangirai not to take part in any presidential run-off against Mugabe • Jigme Y. Thinley is Bhutan's first elected Prime Minister.

11. China's new bullet train 'Hexie' that can reach a speed of 350 km an hour is ready.

12. The Newseum opened in Washington.

13. Maoists bag 61 of 105 seats in Nepal • 92 killed in Sri Lankan clashes • Italy goes to the polls • In Kenya Raila Odinga is named Prime Minister.

14. Dalai Lama rules out any more 'concessions' to China on Tibet • Kenyan President Kibaki announces national unity cabinet, ending a long deadlock.

15. Blasts in Iraq kill 62 • Plane crash in Congo kills 60 • Putin to lead United Russia party • Volcano empts in Colombia • 18 school girls killed in Uganda fire.

16. The Pope is in US • NLD says Suu Kyi can vote in May 10 referendum.



Suu Kyi

17. Suicide bomber kills 4 Iraqi mourners.

18. Beijing main venue of the Olympics 'Bird's Nest' makes debut • WFP to cut rations in Darfur because of insecurity along the main supply

routes • Dense smoke from grass fires envelopes Buenos Aires.

19. Taliban holds Pak ambassador in Afghanistan.

20. Clash between Ethiopian troops and Islamist fighters kill 81 in Mogadishu • Israeli raids on Gaza strip.

22. Crude oil rises to \$118 a barrel • Paris awards honorary citizenship to Dalai Lama.

23. 90 killed in fighting in Jaffna peninsula • Hillary Clinton scores a decisive win in Pennsylvania • Reports say Israel prepared to return Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for a peace treaty.

24. China's Internet population rises to 221 m. • 143 killed in Sri Lanka fighting • Pakistan's new government has drafted a peace agreement with Taliban militants • WFP says half of Pakistan is 'food insecure' • Pro-Tibet riots continue in Nepal.

25. Communist Party of Nepal (Marxists) win 100 seats in Nepal.

26. In Zimbabwe, Mugabe's ZANU-PF fails in recount too.

27. Afghan President Hamid Karzai escapes attempt on his life by Taliban

A Giant Terminal

Beijing opened a new giant airport terminal to meet the Olympic games needs - its size is equal to 170 football fields.

Kabul • Chinese Academy of Social Sciences predicts a 10.7 p.c. growth in GDP in 2008 • Nepali Maoist leader Prachanda stresses cooperation with India.

28.70 die as a passenger train jumps the track in China's Shandong province • Iran is ready for talks with the West on nuclear proposals. -

29. Iraq's former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on trial in Baghdad.

30. Shoab Akhtar's five-year ban upheld by Pak appellate tribunal.

May

Two Natural Disasters

1. Progress made in Pakistan on reinstating judges dismissed by President Musharraf • Colombia's most wanted drug kingpin Victor Mejia Munera shot dead • World's largest sea bridge inaugurated in the Yangtze River Delta in China.

2. Sacked judges of Pakistan to be reinstated • Georgia-Russia tensions are hotting up • No outright winner of Zimbabwe's March 29 election, with Tsvangirai getting 47.9% and Mugabe 43.2%.

3. Ken Livingstone is replaced by Boris Johnson as London mayor • Maoists win one-third of the seats awarded under the Proportionate Representation system • Nelson Mandela still figures on the US terrorist watch list.

4. Microsoft out of Yahoo bid • Cyclone Nargis wreaks havoc in Myanmar.

5. Death toll from cyclone in Myanmar put at 10,000, with another 300 missing.

6. China says Dalai Lama must show

sincerity in his actions.

7. Dmitry Medvedev is the new Russian President and Vladimir Putin the Prime Minister • IMF approves sale of 403.3 tonnes for gold reserves • Sri Lanka President prorogues Parliament • Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern resigns, Brian Cowen succeeds him • Death toll in Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar may reach 50,000, it is



Nargis havoc in Myanmar

feared; One million homeless • Obama takes a step towards Democratic Party nomination.

8. Pakistan testfires Haft-VIII • Crude price \$126 a barrel • Lebanese militant group takes over most of Beirut.

10. Myanmar junta holds a referendum on a new constitution • Afghanistan is hit by a plague of locusts.

11. President Bush's daughter Jenna weds Henry Hager • Serbs vote in parliamentary election • UN puts number of persons missing in Myanmar cyclone Nargis at 2,20,000.

12. Relief materials for cyclone-hit Myanmar pour in from many countries • Pakistan is readmitted to the Commonwealth • Southwest China is hit by a major earthquake (7.8), killing thousands, and leaving 900 students buried • Indonesians

Imperial Rule for 2000 Years

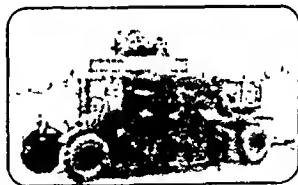
China was under imperial rule for over 2000 years, while India remained a British colony for over three centuries. China became a republic in 1912, whereas India became independent in 1947.

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protest government's plan to raise fuel prices • Nawaz Sharif's party (PML-N) to quit Pak cabinet.

13. China earthquake toll surpasses 12,000 • Maoists ask King Gyanendra to leave the Narayanhiti Palace before May 27.

14. Justine Henin retires - Maria Sharapova to be No.1 in women's tennis.

16. PCC withdraws defamation suit against Shoaib Akhtar, after a public apology by the bowler • 100 killed in pipeline fire in Nigeria • Pillayan, leader of the breakaway LTTE faction, is CM of the newly constituted Eastern Provincial Council.

17. Quake toll in China rises to 28,881 • UN report says about 3 b. people are food insecure; 18,000 children die daily • Taliban releases Pak ambassador to Kabul Tariq Azizuddin, three months and five days after he was abducted • Kuwaitis vote for a new Parliament • President Bush in Egypt for peace deal.

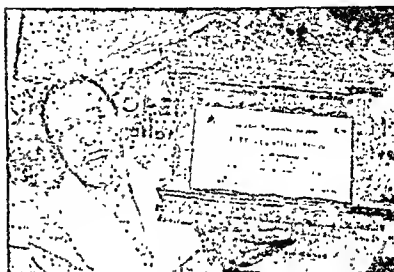
18. Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh indicted by a special court in a second graft case • Double amputee runner Oscar Pistorius regains the right to participate in Olympics at Beijing.

19. Mahathir Mohammad quits ruling party in Malaysia to press for leadership change • Osama bin Laden lashes out at Arab governments that side with the West • Anti-foreigner riots in South Africa, 22 killed • 3-day mourning in Myanmar for victims of cyclone that has left 1,30,000 people dead or missing • 3 minutes' silence observed in China and overseas in memory of the earthquake victims.

20. Oil is \$129 a barrel.

21. Brigadier Balraj, a key commander of the LTTE, is dead • Georgia elects a new Parliament.

22. Appa Sherpa of Nepal climbs Everest for the 18th time • Olympic torch relay resumes in China • Violence erupts



Appa Sherpa

in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka • Pakistan signs a peace accord with Taliban militants in the Swat Valley.

23. King Gyanendra of Nepal leaves the Narayanhity royal palace • Beatification of Pope John Paul II next year • Ricky Ponting surpasses Gavaskar's record by winning his 35th test century against West Indies • China and Russia vow joint efforts to maintain global energy security • Myanmar opens up to global aid • 850 Malawians affected by the violence against foreigners in South Africa, which has claimed 42 lives • Somalian pirates free the hijacked ship MV Victoria • Oil is \$135 a barrel.

24. Death toll from earthquake in China is over 60,000 • PPP leader Zardari says judges sacked by President Musharraf will be reinstated • Prachanda invited to form government in Nepal • Thousands march in Jo'burg against xenophobia • NASA gears to land the Phoenix space craft or

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AB Dr. Ramesh Chandra Joshi
Editorial from 1980



संस्कृत विभाग, अहमदनगर जिल्हा, महाराष्ट्र



Tsvangirai

Mars' frigid north pole •Tsvangirai of Zimbabwe says Mugabe wants to decimate MDC structures.

25. Min Bahadur Sherchan, 75, of Nepal becomes the oldest person

to climb the Everest •Army Chief Gen. Michel Sleiman is elected President of Lebanon.

26. Palme d'Or (Cannes) goes to 'Entre les Murs' ('The Class') •Phoenix sends first pictures from Mars •Sri Lanka train blast kills seven.

27. Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi extended by one year •Gorbachev given lifetime achievement award at the Energy Cable Awards in Brussels •Nepal's King Gyanendra's last day on the throne •Xenophobes attack South Asians in Rome •France to promote nuclear energy as an alternative to tackle climate change.

28. Nepal becomes a Federal Democratic Republic; King Gyanendra to vacate the palace in 15 days •Assets of four LeT leaders frozen by USA •Experts say the leaning tower of Pisa has been stabilised and is out of danger for at least 300 years •James Bond is back in Sebastian Faulks' novel 'Devil May Care', marking the centenary of Ian Fleming's birth •China's earthquake toll rises to 68,109 •A corruption scandal puts pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to resign •Indonesia a net oil importer, to quit OPEC.

29. Agreement reached on destroying

cluster bomb stock piles in eight years, at a meeting of diplomats from over 100 nations in Dublin.

30. Actor Sharon Stone banned by Shanghai Film Festival for suggesting that the earthquakes in Sichuan were Karmic retribution for the treatment of Tibet •Earthquake hits Iceland •China to evacuate 1.3 m. people in Sichuan for fear of a major 'quake lake' burst •A.O.



China's Earthquake

Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, says he had not meant a word of his earlier admission of selling nuclear energy •WHO calls member countries to ban tobacco advertisement.

31. France to help Jordan develop its nuclear energy •Shane Warne says he is ready to be spin bowling guru in India.

June

Palace Turns Museum

2. Phoenix Mars Lander begins digging •A carbomb blast outside Danish embassy in Islamabad kills 6.

3. UN Secretary General urges the food crisis summit in Rome to help spread of

The Most Expensive Dessert

A Galle-based luxury hotel launched a dessert 'The Fortress Stilt Fisherman Indulgence', priced at \$ 14,500. Stilt fishermen of Weligama village close to the fortress city of Galle are famous. The dessert made of gold leaf, is decorated with a chocolate carving of a fisherman clinging to a stilt, and an 80 cent aquamarine.

Courses for Better English

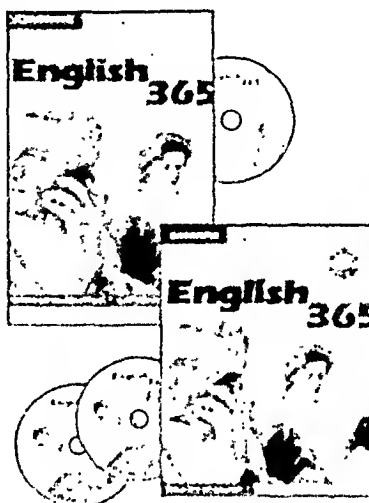
English 365: For Work and Life

Bob Dignen, Steve Flinders & Simon Sweeney

English 365 is a Business English and general English course. It is for learners who want to develop their English skills for their work and their social and travel needs, and therefore reflects the work-life balance of busy working adults.

Key features:

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- Excellent opportunities to practice speaking with a variety of engaging topics
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Adrian Doff & Christopher Jones

Language in Use is available in four levels: Beginner, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper-intermediate. Language in Use offers teachers of adult and young adult learners

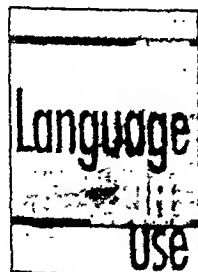
Flexibility: the course can be tailored to the needs of mixed-ability classes

Dual syllabus: alternating grammar and vocabulary units

Clarity: clear organisation and superb illustrations make the course accessible and attractive

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Self-study: Workbooks with integral self-study cassettes provide a resource for genuine self-study



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Key Features:

- An integrated multi-skills syllabus
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- Conversational language
- Grammar in communicative contexts
- Natural recordings with a variety of accents
- Task-based listening activities
- Opportunities to share opinions and ideas
- Student-centred fluency activities
- A thorough treatment of pronunciation



starvation by lowering trade barriers and removing export bans.

4. Barack Obama claims Democratic presidential nomination, after an epic battle with Hillary Clinton • \$3 b. of emergency aid announced by the UN in Rome to meet the global food crisis.



Hillary Clinton

5. Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd suggests a European Union style bloc comprising India, USA,

China and Australia for Asia Pacific co-operation • Hillary Clinton endorses her rival Barack Obama putting an end to her campaign for nomination • Maoists stake claim for Nepal Prime Minister • Astronauts open a new science lab in ISS • Deposed Nepal King Gyanendra to move to a palace outside Kathmandu.

6. 23 killed in two blasts in Sri Lanka • Turkish court overturns a law allowing women to wear the headscarf at university • Hillary and Obama hold meeting.

7. Oil prices shoot to over \$139 • Musharraf says he is not quitting • A row erupts over plans to instal Hitler in Madame Tussaud's new Berlin museum • Serbia's Ana Ivanovic wins French Open • Prachanda rejects G.P. Koirala's candidature for President of Nepal proposed by Nepali Congress • An Israeli Minister's threat that a military attack on Iran could become inevitable spurs oil prices.

8. Mine explosion in Ukraine trips 37, kills four • ANC chief Jacob Zuma in New Delhi • Rafael Nadal equals Bjorn Borg's

record for four consecutive French Open crowns, beating Federer • Man goes on stabbing spree in Tokyo, killing 7 • South Asians in Durban threatened with violence if they don't pack their bags and leave

9. Iran opposes move for US bases in Iraq • Bangladesh Government imposes gag order on Sheikh Hasina.

10. Saudi Arabia calls for a meeting of oil producers • Venezuela and Cuba to instal an under sea optical fibre cable connecting the two to counter US embargo • Irish voters go to the polls for a referendum on the Lisbon treaty • Gazprom expects oil to hit \$250.

11. 29 die as a Sudanese airliner bursts into flames on landing at Khartoum • Sheikh Hasina released on parole for eight weeks • Nepal's former king Gyanendra vacates Narayanhiti palace.

12. Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for UK for medical treatment.

13. Irish 'No' to Lisbon Treaty, leads to EU crisis • China and Taiwan sign agreements to improve flight connectivity and tourism • President George Bush has a special protocol audience with the Pope.

14. Earthquake of 7.2 magnitude jolt northern Japan • PCB reduces Shoail Akhtar's 5-year ban for indiscipline to 18 months • 'Discovery' lands safely at Kennedy Space Centre



Rafael Nadal

after delivering part of a lab to ISS • 110 inmates escape from Afghan jail where Taliban rebels blast it open • Iran not to halt uranium enrichment, despite fresh EU incentives.

Tokyo is the Culinary Capital

Tokyo has unseated Paris as the world's culinary capital, according to Michelin Guides, the French bible of gastronomy. Eight restaurants in Tokyo have received Michelin's highest three-star rating.

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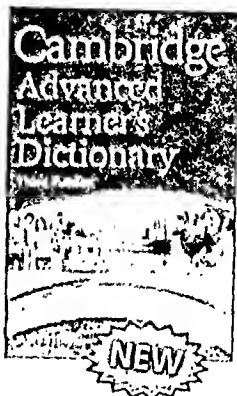
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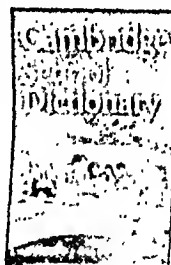
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15. Narayanhiti palace in Kathmandu becomes a national museum • GJM begins Darjeeling bandh • Afghan president Karzai warns Pakistan over 'terrorist nests' • China has bumper grain harvests for the fifth year • Ethiopia appeals for \$325 m. in aid, as people needing emergency assistance are around 4.6 m. • Floods in Iowa.

16. Crude price touches \$140 • Nepal's Prachanda wins the country's top peace award along with Jimmy Carter • 12 policemen killed by LTTE suicide bomber in Vavuniya • Hundreds of families flee their homes in southern Afghanistan as Taliban insurgents take over several villages.

17. California begins issuing same-sex marriage licences.

19. Crude rises to \$137 a barrel • Severe flooding in US Midwest • Senator John McCain wants 45 new nuclear reactors built in the US by 2030 • Suu Kyi is 63, confined to her home for 12 years.



John McCain & his wife Cindy

20. Maoist ministers quit Nepal ministry after they fail to agree on power-sharing • About 100 Japanese committed suicide everyday last year.

21. China accepts Sikkim as a part of India • UPA allies don't favour early election • IAEA chief El-Baradei warns against Iran attack.

22. In Zimbabwe, Tsvangirai quits race, as he thinks a free and fair poll is impossible • In Jeddah meeting of oil-producing and consuming countries, Indian F.M. proposes a price band mechanism to regulate oil prices • Philippines ferry capsizes: hundreds feared dead.

23. Nawaz Sharif barred from contesting parliamentary by-elections • Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai takes refuge at Dutch embassy.

25. Seven Party Alliance of Nepal agree on constitution amendment • Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai wants political prisoners released before talks • 28 tribal leaders



G.P. Koirala

killed by Taliban • Proliferation of jelly fish in seas resulting from climate change and overfishing.

26. G.P. Koirala resigns as PM of Nepal • North Korea hands over

detailed nuclear list to China • Afghanistan accuses Pakistan intelligence of organising the failed plot to kill Karzai • Al-Qaeda bid to regroup in Saudi Arabia foiled by Riyadh.

27. Crude oil rises to \$142 a barrel • North Korea's nuclear tower demolished • US Supreme Court upholds an individual's right to have a gun.

28. PPP for Kashmir autonomy • Nelson Mandela is 90.

29. Spain beat Germany 1-0 in the final of the Euro 2008 in Vienna. Xavi Fernandez voted player of Euro '08 • Robert Mugabe sworn in Zimbabwe President, for the sixth time • US Senate approves a Bill to

The World's Longest Insect

British scientists have found the world's longest insect: it is nearly the length of a human arm, and called 'Chan's megastick'.

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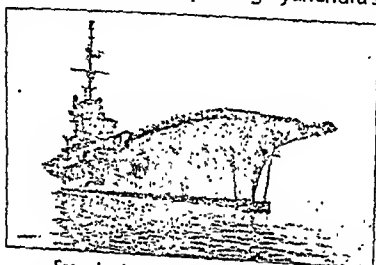
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remove Nelson Mandela from a terror watch list • Netherlands bans smoking in cafes from July 1.

30. OPEC says oil prices might touch \$170 in a few months • Prince Charles sets up a £ one b. investment fund for sustainable urban development • Crude rises to \$ 143 a barrel.

Rushdie Wins Best of Booker

1. The French aircraft Clemenceau to be broken up in UK • Nepal King Gyanendra's



French aircraft carrier Clemenceau

son Paras leaves for Singapore where he is settling • Tyson Gay runs 100 m. in 9.68 seconds • Anglican Church facing a split, with a breakaway group Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (Foa).

2. According to World Values Survey, Denmark is the happiest country • Coup plot suspected in Turkey, two ex-Generals arrested.

3. Rebel LTTE leader Colonel Karuna back in Sri Lanka completing his jail term • Talks between China and Dalai Lama envoys fail to make any breakthrough • Crude oil hits \$146 a barrel.

5. Venus William wins her 5th Wimbledon.

6. Sri Lanka lifts Asia Cup Cricket

championship • Blast near Lal Masjid in Pakistan kills 15 • 8 policemen killed in suicide attack in Pakistan.

7. Terror attack on Indian embassy in Kabul, five Indians killed • Blasts in Karachi kill two, injure 45 • Special Nelson Mandela birthday coin minted in South Africa • Rafael Nadal adds the Wimbledon title to the French Open crown.

8. G-8 leaders meeting at Sapporo, Japan stick to the goal of reducing global emissions by 50 p.c. by 2050 • Taslima Nasreen to be made honorary citizen of Paris.

9. Leaders of 16 major economies meeting at the G8 summit venue in Tokyo discuss climate change • G8 leaders to bury the summit documents in a time capsule at the hotel in Tokyo where they meet • US consulate in Istanbul attacked.

10. Iran test-fires more missiles • Salman Rushdie wins the Best of Booker Prize for his novel "Midnight's Children".

11. Britain allows Indian professionals who left after Nov. 2006 changes in immigration rules to return • A national unity government is formed in Lebanon • UN agrees to set up panel to look into the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

12. Yelena Isinbayeva improves her own World Record in pole vault to 5.03



Yelena Isinbayeva

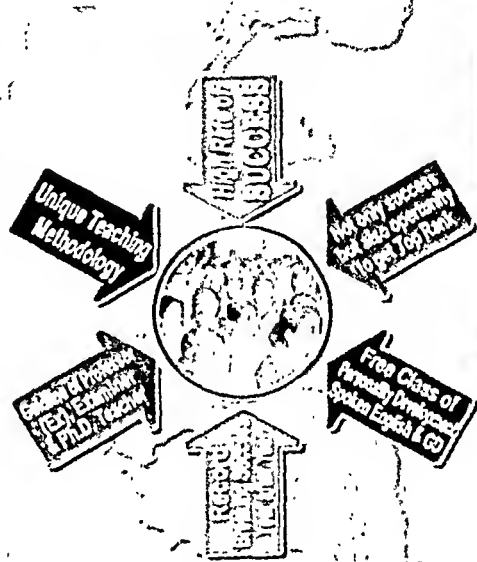
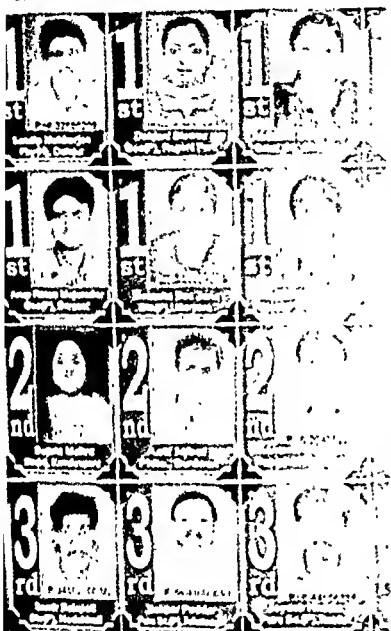
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A once-secret 1940s tunnel complex under the centre of London that housed military intelligence has been put up for sale. The complex was dug up in 1942.

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BARASAT BEHALA HOWRAH	CHINSURAH

25. The world's first test tube baby Louise Brown is 30 • A Qantas plane makes emergency landing in Manila after part of its undercarriage blows off.

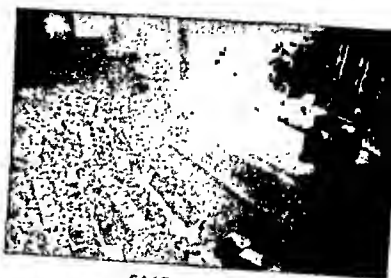
26. A Muslim separatist group from NW China owns responsibility for a string of bombings in the country • WTO meet ends without agreement for a global trade pact.

28. Barrack Obama says Pakistan had tolerated or funded the Mujahideen in Kashmir • US accuses India and China for the failure of WTO talks • Turkey blames Kurdish rebels for two bomb blasts in Istanbul, killing 17.

29. As US, China and India fail to compromise on farm import rules, WTO talks collapse.

30. Pakistan not to press for vote on Indian deal at IAEA.

30. Zimbabwe cuts 10 zeros from the currency and reintroduces coins made obsolete in 2002.



SAARC Summit

3. SAARC summit in Colombo ends • Prime Minister Manmohan Singh says at the SAARC summit that terrorism is the single biggest threat to South Asia • Nine climbers die in avalanche after scaling K-2.

4. Attack on security forces in China, 16 policemen killed • Nobel Prize winning Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn (89) is dead • President Musharraf says ISI is the first line of defence.

5. Crude oil falls to \$118 a barrel • A South Korean company RNL Bio which has delivered 5 cloned puppies to an American woman says it is the world's first successful commercial canine cloning service • Turkey appoints a new Army Chief, Gen. Ilker Basburg, known for his staunch opposition to Islamism • A 6.1-magnitude earthquake strikes Qingchuan county in Sichuan, China • John A. 'Junior' Gotti, mafia don, arrested in US.

6. At \$3 a kg, rubber price in SE Asia is at a 56-year high • Olympic torch reaches the host city after 129 days of journey through 6 continents.

7. Maldives' new constitution adopted by President, allowing multi-party elections • Pak ruling coalition decides to impeach President Musharraf.

8. Beijing Olympics opens with a

Beijing Olympics

1. Partial solar eclipse occurs • Scientists by the Phoenix spacecraft has tasted Martian water for the first time • New York Times reports that ISI engineered Kabul

embassy bombing in July.
2. Polio cases reported in Afghanistan
3. TE's last stronghold in Mannar, Velulam town, captured by the military
4. bin says Al-Qaeda leader Zawahiri is not killed as claimed by a US report
5. il creates a fund with donations from rich countries to protect the Amazon forest and fight global warming
6. tan offers to probe attack on Kabul embassy.

A Conspiracy

orean officials denounced as a conspiracy the news in Sept. 08 that Kim Jong Il was seriously ill. He had missed the celebration of the 60th year of the country's founding.



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Diploma (Clinical & Para-Clinical):

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PG Diploma Courses :

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Counselling, Cyber Law, Law and Medicine,
Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Post-Doctoral Courses (D.M / M.Ch.)

Cardiology, Neurology, Cardio Thoracic & Vascular
Surgery, Urology

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regulations 2007)

Post-Graduate Programs (MDS):

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Endodontics, Orthodontics, Prosthodontics,
Periodontics, Pedodontics, Oral Pathology, Preventive
& Community Dentistry, Oral Medicine & Radiology

Para-Dental Courses:

Dental Mechanics & Technician Course, Dental
Hygiene & para-Dental Assistant Course

Certificate Courses (Dentistry)

Esthetic Dentistry, Periodontal Esthetic & Plastic
Surgery, Oral & Maxillofacial Implantology,
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Prosthetics

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Neonatology, Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology,
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invasive Cardiology, Joint Replacement, Diabetology,
Sports Medicine

Certificate Courses (Medicine) :

Minimal Access Surgery
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colourful ceremony • Maoists fail to form government in Nepal • Georgia attacks breakaway S. Ossetia, Russia moves tanks and troops to protect its nationals.

9. 1500 killed in Russia's war with Georgia.

10. Georgia starts pulling out its forces in S. Ossetia • President Musharraf not to resign • Aung Saan Suu Kyi allowed to meet her lawyer • Russian President Medvedev

12. France-brokered ceasefire in Georgia • Microchip is 50.

13. MQM deserts President Musharraf in Sindh assembly • Michael Phelps' total Olympic gold medals reach 11 - the only man to achieve it • Blast in Lebanon kills 14.

14. Ceasefire in Georgia, Russia assures S. Ossetia, Abkhazia of Russia's support to independence bid • Emergency in Bangkok, imposed on Sept. 2, lifted • Power-sharing deal reached in Zimbabwe.

15. Prachanda is elected Prime Minister of Nepal • North Korean athlete Kim Jong-Su tests positive for drugs, banned from Olympics • Microchip is 50.

16. Usain Bolt coasts to 100 m. win with a world record 9.69 sec. • Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim files papers run for Parliament • Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signs peace accord to end a five-day war with Georgia.

17. Michael Phelps wins his 8th gold medal of Olympics to eclipse Mark Spitz's record.

18. Trai allows Internet telephony • Prachanda sworn in Prime Minister of Nepal.

19. A suicide bombing in NWFP (Pak)

kills 25 people • Russia deploys missiles in S. Ossetia • Enid Blyton is Britain's favourite author in poll • Taliban bomber blows himself up, killing 25 in a Pak hospital • 43 killed in Algeria school strike by suicide bomber.

20. At Madrid airport, a Spanish airline swerves off the runway as it leaves Madrid-14 passengers and crew killed • Russia invites Syrian President on a visit • Musharraf says he is not leaving Pakistan • 10 French soldiers die in ambush near Kabul.

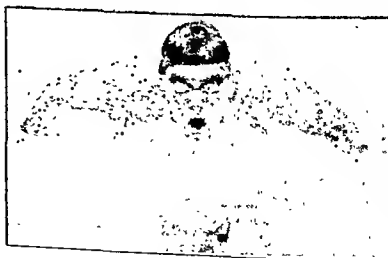
21. 153 killed in Spain jet crash.

25. A Boeing 737 bound for Tehran crashes in Kyrgyzstan killing 65 • Taslima Nasreen says she has no plans to leave India.

26. Russia recognises Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia • Zardari urges Nawaz Sharif to rejoin government of Pakistan.

27. Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska is Senator John McCain's running mate • Pakistan reinstates 8 judges.

30. Pakistan reappoints four judges sacked by Musharraf • Earthquake measuring 6.1 (Richter) hits Panzhihua city in China, killing 22 • Colombo blast, 50 wounded • Georgia cuts off diplomatic



Michael Phelps

Mercy Killing

Voluntary euthanasia is promoted by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society or Exit. Voluntary euthanasia includes active steps for taking life and the withholding of life-supporting treatment. This practice was decriminalised in the Netherlands in 1993. A law in 2001 made it fully legal under certain conditions.

☁
Rain

WATER Problems? Do not be Panic

• Save Rainwater

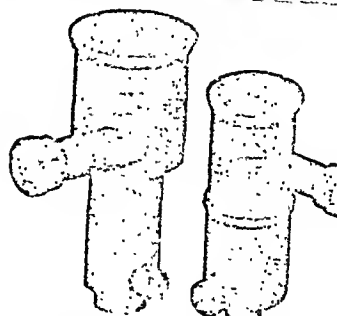
Approximately 40% of water used in summer is used outdoors which is when most areas face water shortages and have water restrictions. Because of over-population, agricultural and industrial development the overexploitation of underground water by sinking Borewells was generally found to be a solution without forethoughts. Reckless depth of sinking Borewells resulted uncertain yields and impure water. The present situation is that the depth has gone to the extent of more than 1200 feet, which was earlier 150 feet. Only vista of rescue is to Re-charge the underground water table through Rainwater Harvesting System.

Quality of Rainwater

All the natural water contains dissolved ions (positive valency anions and negative valency cations) within them. Rainwater which is formed due to natural distillation process i.e. evaporation, condensation & precipitation. It is supposed to be in very dilute solution with very less dissolved solids generally between 10-20 mg/litre. All the dissolved ions present in them are in the range of 1-3 mg/litre. So it is considered to pure and can be used for regular usage. Moreover their PH is between 6.7 & 7.2 for consumption purposes. But concentration varies from region to region.

Rainwater Harvesting Filters

Rainwater is the purest form of water as mentioned above, when it falls on the roof of the building. It mixes with dirt particles and leaves deposited on the roof and flows through the Rain Drain pipes. By installing the Rainy filters before teaving the water into the sump the suspended particles up to 250 microns can be eliminated.



RAINY FL 250 -I RAINY FL 150

Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Filters

'RAINY' Filters first of its kind in the country designed to fix to the WALL by connecting Rooftop drain water pipes. When the rainwater flows by gravity and enter the filter at specific velocity, which creates **COHESIVE FORCE** and segregates dirt particles and clean water individually, thereby dirt particles and waste material are flushed out through the **DRAIN OUTLET**, while the clean rain water passes through **CLEAN WATER OUTLET**, which can be used for re-utilization or recharging of bore wells.

Farmland Rainwater Harvesting Systems

648, 11th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 082.

Telefax: +91 80 26766252 E-mail: farmland_rhs@yahoo.co.in

Web: www.rainwaterharvestingindia.com, rainyfilters.com

Mob: 09448076595 / 09448076524





Sichuan Earthquake

ties with Russia • Hurricane Gustav grows into a category 3 storm.

31. ATF prices slashed by 16% • India is the third biggest CO₂ emitter, after China and USA, according to Centre for Global Development, USA • Asif Ali Zardari says army supports his Presidential bid • Earthquake in Sichuan & Yunnan provinces, China, 30 dead • Hurricane Gustav strikes Cuba.

Financial Turbulence

1. Hurricane Gustav strikes Louisiana coastline • Crude price below \$110 • Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda announces his resignation.

3. Rupert Murdoch reportedly interested in buying *New York Times* • Pak Prime Minister Gilani escapes attempt on life.

4. NSG meets in Vienna to review a fresh American proposal to exempt India from the cartel's requirement of full-scope safeguards as a condition for nuclear experts • A letter by US administration to House Committee on Foreign Affairs in January made public two days ago creates furore • Former-German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn retires • John McCain accepts Republican

nominations.

5. Angola holds first peace time polls • Three Supreme Court judges take oath in Pakistan.

6. NSG lifts sanctions on India, making the country free to buy nuclear material from Russia and France • 30 killed in Peshawar suicide bombing • Marion Jones released from prison after serving a six-month sentence • President Medvedev says Russia is ready to take on the West if the latter opts for confrontation following Russia-Georgia conflict.

7. Prince William and Prince Harry to embark on a 1600 km motorcycle ride in Africa to raise money for orphans and AIDS victims • China plans spacewalk • Russia and Venezuela to hold joint normal war games • US govt. takes control of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, while Silver State Bank becomes the 11th failure of a federally insured bank this year • Sri Lanka offers site for Tata's Nano project.

8. China says it didn't block India at the NSG meet • Serena Williams wins her 9th career Grand Slam title and World No.1 ranking, beating Jelena Jankovic • 14 dies in missile strike by US drones on a North



Serena Williams

The Thai-Soccer Connection

Thaksin Shinawatra, former Thai Prime Minister, who lives in self exile in London owns the soccer team Manchester City. He was deposed in a military coup while he was abroad in 2006.

When you aspire to be the best

We will stand by you of the rest

To be better is ordinary.... to be the best is extraordinary!

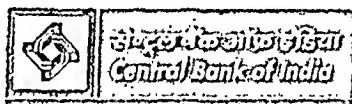
One of the top-3 leading Public Sector Banks - Central Bank of India has always believed in the extraordinary. Whether it is our profitable products, or our facilitating services, each of them is devised meticulously & flawlessly ensuring success & satisfaction. The growing number of our customers is witness to this.

Far-and-wide with our strong Pan India network of 3282 Branches (including over 1000 CBS Branches) along with modern day banking services such as; Internet Banking, SMS Banking, ATM Banking & Anywhere Banking...we have reached millions of customers with our legacy of...Giving our Best!

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- SMS Banking
- Online application for Education Loan
- e-payments/RTGS/NEFT/ECS
- Cent Udaan-Financial Assistance for Pilot Training
- Reverse Mortgage Loan for Senior Citizens
- Demat Accounts



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Nazivistan madrassa run by a Taliban commander • Havana braces itself for Hurricane Ike.

9. Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gets bail in corruption cases • Roger Federer claims his fifth US Open crown and his 13th Grand Slam title • Thai Prime Minister Sundaravej is disqualified for presenting TV shows • Russia establishes diplomatic ties with Abkhazia and S. Ossetia • President Bush to withdraw 8000 troops from Iraq by Feb. and send 4500 to Afghanistan by January • Amitav Ghosh and Aravind Adiga for Man Booker.

10. CERN scientists begin experiment on the secret of the universe.

13. Russia withdraws forces from Georgia • Four TV staff shot dead in Mosul • 17 die in train accident in Los Angeles • Bolivia's President Morales appeals for calm, after days of violent unrest and declaration of martial law in a rebel state • Massive flooding in Texas caused by hurricane Ike • Europe looks forward to electric version of Nano car • IAEA reveals that Libya, which abandoned a clandestine nuclear arms programme in 2003 had been in contact with the network of Pak nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan since 1984.

14. Aeroflot Boeing - 737 crashes near Ural mountains, killing 88.

15. Crisis in global markets as US-based investment banking firms Lehmann Brothers and Merrill Lynch head toward extinction • Hurricane Ike leaves 8 dead in Texas • Joseph Scheungraber sentenced to life in prison for a Nazi war crime, pleads innocent at a trial system • Typhoon in Taiwan • Britain's first Hindu faith school launched in Harrow • Power-sharing in Zimbabwe sees Mugabe as President and Tsvangirai as Prime Minister • Russia to

sever ties with NATO if Georgia is inducted • Oil prices tumble below \$93.

16. Further turbulence in global financial markets, with AIG fighting for survival as Federal Reserve Bank pumps \$70 b to help ease the squeeze • O.J. Simpson trial begins • Nigerian militants sabotage a pipeline, warning workers to evacuate the Niger Delta • Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt donate \$ 2 m. to help children affected by AIDS and TB in Ethiopia.

17. US Federal Reserve announces a bail-out of the embattled AIG, the largest insurer • US bans import of 28 drugs made by Ranbaxy, due to manufacturing lapses • Thailand's new prime minister is Somchai Wongsat • Russia tries treaties with Abkhazia and S. Ossetia • US embassy in Sana hit by a car bomb, kills 16 • Somali pirates hijack a merchant tanker with 18 Indians.

18. Israel Foreign Minister Teipi Livni wins leadership poll • China to do first spacewalk in the Shenzhou mission • Russia's financial markets face the biggest test since 1998.

19. 46 killed in Sri Lanka clashes.

20. Collider (Big Bang) malfunction forces shut down for two months • Massive bomb goes off at Islamabad Marriott



Marriott Hotel after the blast

Titanic Mementoes

Miltvina Dean, 96, is the last remaining survivor of the Titanic disaster. She has auctioned the mementoes from the trip to pay her nursing home expenses.

Hotel, killing 53 and injuring 266 • Bangladesh elections on Dec. 8 • US's \$700 billion plan to rescue the financial sector.

21. Israeli prime minister Olmert to resign • 43 killed in a fire in China nightclub.

22. Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley allowed to become banks • Nine leading global banks launch 'Turquoise', a pan-European electronic trading platform • Shanghai launches bicycle rental programme • Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe likely to succeed President Mbeki of South Africa • A squadron of Russian warships set sail to the Caribbean.

23. 10 people killed by gunmen in a Finnish school • Britain has 2 p.c. counterfeit one-pound coins • Venezuelan President Chavez, visiting China, plans refinery projects there • Myanmar's longest-held (19 years) prisoner journalist Win Tin freed • WHO says 2 b. people in Asia-Pacific are at risk for dengue.

24. Taro Aso is Japanese Prime minister • China - Venezuela oil agreement signed • ILO report says 'green economy' can create millions of jobs.



Taro Aso

25. China successfully launches the Shenzhou-7 spacecraft • 16-year-olds can vote in Austria.

26. Washington Mutual collapses - the biggest bank to fail in US, JP Morgan Chase acquires WaMu for 1.9\$b. • Russia and Venezuela to set up an oil and gas consortium.

27. Washington Mutual to file for bankruptcy • Space walk of 25 minutes by Chinese taikonaut.

28. Spacecraft Shenzhou-7 returns • US bailout of Wall Street okayed by legislators.

29. Ninth EU-India Summit opens in Marseilles • Citigroup to buy Wachovia Corp. in US • Five candidates to challenge



Manmohan Singh & Sarkozy at EU Summit

Gayoom in Maldives presidential election • Olmert says Israel must give up all of West Bank for peace • Belgian banking major Fortis receives financial support • At Marseille, India says it is against Iran's nuclear ambition • US bailout plan of \$700 b. for Wall Street collapses, as House of Representatives rejects the plan • Oil is \$95 a barrel.

30. Fed pumps \$630 bn more into the global financial system.

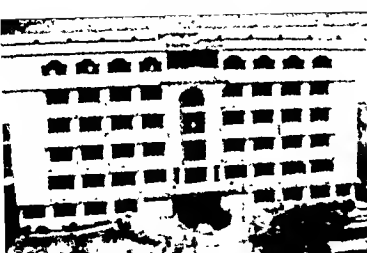
October

Adiga Wins Booker

2. Attempt on Awami National Party leader Wali Khan in NWFP • US Senate passes revised \$ 700 b. bailout package for the debt-stricken financial system • Increase in piracy in the Gulf of Aden may cut off global sea routes through the Suez Canal • The Boeing machinists'

A Verdict against PM

Thailand's Constitutional Court ruled in Sept. 08 that the prime minister Samak Sundaravej must resign for having breached the constitution by doing paid work as a television chef.



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Bachelor of X-Ray Technology,

Bachelor of Bio-Technology,

Bachelor of Ophthalmology.

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Diploma in X-Ray Technology,

Diploma in Prosthetic & Orthotic,

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Diploma in E.C.G.,

Certificate in Medical Dressing.



Dr. K.C. Brahma
Director Academy



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strike, which began on Sept. 6, might delay 787 flights • Britain's largest clothing retailer Marks & Spencer opens its first store in China.

4. European Governments rush to save failing banks.

5. Pak President Zardari describes militants in J&K as 'terrorists' • Thai leader C. Srimuang arrested for 'treason' • Sri Lanka army chief Gen. Fonseka asks Prabhakaran to surrender • Russia begins withdrawal from Georgia • Lakshmi Mittal reportedly loses £ 16.6 b. in the global credit crunch in four months owing to falling stock prices.

6. Three share Nobel Prize for Medicine.

7. Three share Nobel Prize for Physics • Pakistan reported to be on the brink of bankruptcy • UK pumps £ 50 b. to save beleaguered banks • A 3-year-old girl, Matina Shakya, enthroned in Nepal as a New Kumari or the main 'living goddess' • Actress Halle Berry named sexiest woman alive by US magazine.

9. WTO chief Pascal Lamy asks world powers to hold Bretton Woods like summit on crisis • ESA says ozone hole is getting bigger by the day • President Bush signs the nuclear deal (with India) bill into law • Twin suicide attacks in Pakistan kill 16.

10. Financial crisis deepens as selling is up on Wall Street, and spreads to Asia; Dow closes down 679 points



Martti Ahtisaari

• Crude plunges to \$ 82 • Martti Ahtisaari, Finland's former President, wins Nobel Peace Prize • Iceland accepts a \$ 5.4 b. loan from Russia to bail out its banks • Zimbabwe's official inflation rate surges to 231 m. percent.

11. India and US sign the civil nuclear deal in Washington • \$ 600 bn. insurance



Pranab Mukherjee with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov

on Lehman debts pose fresh crisis • 50 tribal elders killed in blast in Pakistan's Aurakzai region.

12. G-7 finance chiefs announce plan of action to fight the global crisis.

13. Paul Krugman wins Nobel Prize for Economics.

14. Indian author Aravind Adiga wins Man Booker Prize • Tamil Nadu political parties set a two-week deadline for the Centre to protect Sri Lankan Tamils from the Sri Lankan army.

15. US budget deficit swells to record \$ 455 b. • Recession fears resurface worldwide, unsettling markets • Sri Lanka says they will address India's concerns • Stephen Harper re-elected Canada Prime Minister • 3rd summit of India-

Honour on 83rd Birthday

Singer Bhupen Hazarika was awarded the Asom Ratna for his contribution to music on his 83rd birthday. The highest honour in Assam, it consists of a citation and cash award of Rs. 20 lakh.

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कार्पोरेट बैंक



Corporation

zil-South Africa Dialogue Forum ends
New Delhi.

16. Malaysia bans Hindraf • Sri Lanka
UN to list LTTE as global terror group
Barack Obama is winner after the final
debate in US Presidential election • Asian
Cooperation Dialogue Conference in
Hanoi discusses financial and food crisis
affecting the world.

17. US housing starts fall to 17-year
low • South Korean firm pays ransom to
Somali pirates • 6000 workers laid off in
Chinese toy factory.

19. US to host world summit to address
financial crisis • Iran wants OPEC to cut
output to avoid price fall • South Korea to
inject \$ 130 b. to shore up banks.

20. Death threats for author of Go-
rrorah, a mafia expose • Obama raises
record \$ 150 m. for election campaign
Israel Prime Minister designate Tzipi
Livni to form coalition government in
two weeks.

21. ILO says the global crisis will slash
20 m. jobs by 2009 • Japan may announce
big loan for western corridor project
• Another Indian vessel seized by Somali
gunman, freed after gun battle.

22. Yahoo to cut 10% jobs • Oil falls
below \$70 on US recession fears.

23. Obama says a close strategic part-
nership with India will be a top priority
• Merck, pharma major, to slash 7200 jobs
• Cross-border lending by banks fall by \$
1.1 trillion in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

24. Leaders from 45 Asian and Euro-
pean countries (ASEM) meet in Beijing
• Asian markets are mauled with Japanese
and Korean Indexes slumping more than
9.5% to end below crucial psychological
milestones • East Asian leaders pledge to
create an 80-billion-dollar fund to help
combat the financial crisis • A Soyuz space
capsule carrying two Russian crew and
an American space tourist return to
Earth.

A Nobel Laureate

Paul Krugman, Princeton Univer-
sity professor and New York Times
columnist, won the 2008 Nobel Prize
in economics for his work on trade
theory.

Krugman, 55, received the prize "for
his analysis of trade patterns and location
of economic activity.

Krugman gained his reputation in
economics by contributing to strategic
trade theory, contending that countries
could steal a march on other nations
by subsidising strategic industries. His
newspaper columns regularly criticise
President George W. Bush's policies.

Krugman sees similarities between
the current financial turmoil and the
Great Depression. The Nobel laureate
sees little danger of a move toward
protectionism in the US, no matter who
wins in the elections.

He was awarded the John Bates Clark
Medal by the American Economic As-
sociation, which is awarded to the best
economist under the age of 40.

Krugman studied economics at Yale
University and obtained a Ph.D. from
the Massachusetts Institute of Technol-
ogy in 1977 before joining Princeton
university.

From 1982 to 1983 he served on
the White House Council of Economic
Advisers. Krugman is the author of a
series of books.

The economics prize was set up by
Sweden's Central Bank in 1968. The
award's official name is "The Bank of
Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in
Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Former winners of the Prize include
Milton Friedman, Amartya Sen and
Friedrich August von Hayek.



Venkat Rao



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Calendar of Events India

2007

November

Violence in Nandigram

2. Naxalites kill 15 policemen in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

3. Gujjars threaten nationwide agitation • Dalai Lama asks for rekindling of spirit of Hindi-Chini bhai bhai • Gold price soars to an 18-month high of Rs.10310 per 10 grams.

5. FM hopes India's per capita income will touch \$1000 by the end of the fiscal year • India ranks 86 in UNCTAD index of 123 nations • Sachin declines to be India's Test captain.

7. Tamil Nadu approves creation of Chennai Metro Rail system, at a cost of Rs. 9757 cr. • Sporadic violence in Nandigram • President's rule in Karnataka revoked • Anil Kumble appointed India's Test captain.

8. BJP to form government in Karnataka • Inflation is 2.97%, for the first time in 5 years • Medha Patkar attacked in Nandigram.

9. Forex reserves rise to \$266.52b.



Protests at Nandigram

11. After bloodbath, CPI(M) recaptures Nandigram, crushing the resistance by Bhumi Uchched Pratirodh Committee.

12. B.S. Yeddyurappa of BJP is the new Karnataka Chief Minister - the first BJP Chief Minister in South India • Third generation mobile phones ushered in • Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has 7th annual summit with Putin in Moscow.

13. A supercomputer developed by Tatas' CRL, Pune is the fourth fastest in the world • L.K. Advani wants Art.356 invoked in West Bengal.

14. Sensex rises 893 points, the highest single-day gain • ISRO announces its second lunar mission, a landing-cum-orbiting plan, to be undertaken jointly with Russia around 2011-12 • Dr. Vijay Kelkar to head the 13th Finance Commission.

15. Former Assam Chief Minister P.K. Mahanta indicted by Saikia Commission for 'secret killings' of kin of ULFA cadres • Lakshmi Mittal (\$51b.) is the richest Indian, according to *Forbes*: Mukesh Ambani (\$49b.) next and Anil Ambani (\$45b.) third, and K.P.Singh fourth.

16. Foundation stone laid for the Smart City project of Kerala in Kochi - 90,000 jobs to be created • National Conference's choice for Chief Minister is Farooq Abdullah.

18. National Old Age Pension Scheme, covering all BPL families • Gurudwaras to adopt abandoned girl child.

19. 8-day-old BJP-led coalition collapses after CM Yeddyurappa, faced with withdrawal of JDS support, decides to quit • Parliament adjourned after the Opposition demands suspension of question hour

Sheesh Mahal, Orkney

[illegible][illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.



Hesperis matronalis

11-10-50

Page 21

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

and a discussion on Nandigram issue.

20. 12 held guilty in 'Uphaar' fire tragedy of 1997 in Delhi • Karnataka brought under President's rule again.

21. Rupee is 39.39 a dollar

• Army moves into Kolkata after demonstrators seeking cancellation of visa for Taslima Nasreen turn violent - agitation called by All-India Minority Forum • Ten cotton growers commit suicide in Vidarbha.

22. 38th edition of IFFI begins in Panaji.

23. Six bombs go off in court complexes in Lucknow, Faizabad and Varanasi (all in U.P.), killing 13 • Rajasthan authorities don't want to have Taslima Nasreen, she is kept as their guest at an undisclosed location • Government approves National Policy for Farmers.

24. Goa Governor S.C. Jamir escapes bid on life near Kohima.

25. Sachin surpasses Allan Border as second highest test run scorer.

26. 36-hour Assam bandh called by All-Assam Adivasi Students' Association • Anil Kumble becomes the sixth Indian captain to register a win in his first Test as skipper.

27. 280 people die on roads every day • Gold is Rs.10,710 in Delhi.

28. BJP says 123 agreement with US is unacceptable • AIIMS Bill passed by Rajya Sabha • Gujarat CM Narendra Modi files



Taslima Nasreen

nomination for Maninagar Assembly seat, declares assets worth Rs. 40 lakh.

30. Taslima Nasreen to delete the controversial lines from her autobiography • Pending cases in India: High courts - 37.1 lakh; lower courts - 2.5 cr.

December

Modi Victory in Gujarat

1. India to adopt 10 cyclone-affected Bangladesh villages for rehabilitation • Disturbed area status of Manipur extended for a year • Government says it is committed to interlinking rivers in India • AIIMS President Venugopal is sacked.

2. Congress leader Bhajan Lal quits the party and launches Haryana Janhit Congress • PIOs in Pakistan and Bangladesh not to get dual citizenship.

4. Gary Kirsten to coach Indian cricket team from Nov. 08 • West Bengal Chief Minister admits Nandigram was a failure.

5. Five half-burnt bodies found near Nandigram.

6. Interceptor missile test-fired • Bill provides for 3 months' jail for those who abandon their parents.

7. Inflation at 3.01% • Defence Ministry scraps the deal to procure 197 helicopters • Plans for one-year compulsory rural service for MBBS students may be shelved • Muslim representation in Mumbai police remains constant at 2 p.c. of the 40,000-strong force.

8. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in India.

9. Election Commission issues notice to Sonia Gandhi for the election speech

Nehru Professorship

Cambridge University launches Nehru professorship to celebrate centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru's arrival at Trinity College.

in Gujarat on December 1 that 'those running the Gujarat government are liars, betrayers and merchants of fear and death' •All Koch-Rajbanshi Students' Union (AKRSU) to launch a fast-unto-death on Dec.14 to press its demand for a separate Kamatapur state comprising 11 districts of Assam & 5 districts of West Bengal.

10. Gujarat elections 1st phase begins •BJP announces that L.K. Advani will be its prime ministerial candidate in the next Lok Sabha elections.

11. Sensex surges to 20,333 and settles at 20,290.

12. Supreme Court issues contempt notice to Chief Minister Narendra Modi for his speech allegedly justifying the encounter killing of Sohrabuddin in November 2005 •India-born Vikram Pandit is new CEO of Citigroup.

13. Five passengers killed in explosion on Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani Express, in Assam •E-waste in India expected to reach 4.7 lakh tonnes by 2011.

14. Nellore district in A.P. to be named after Potti Sreeramulu •India's oil consumption in 2007 increases to 2.8 m. bpd.

15. Akash missile testfired for third consecutive day.

16. Bomb explodes at Pourabi in Imphal, killing 7 •Narain Karthikeyan wins A1 GP in Zhuhai, China.

17. Sensex noses dives by 770 points-the second highest single day fall •Vinod Rai is new CAG.

18. Over 350 Maoists in Beru jail, Patna clash with security personnel •Pravin Mahajan gets life-term for killing brother Pramod Mahajan •Court directs

CBI to further investigation of the case against Jagdish Tytler in anti-Sikh riot case •Bilateral trade between China and India likely to touch \$40 b. ahead of the targeted schedule in 2010.

19. Kingfisher Airlines and Deccan Aviation to merge •XI plan draft endorsed by NDC •Final phase of Assembly election in H.P.

20. Inflation dips to 3.65 p.c. •Prime Minister asks States to set up forces to beat naxal movement •Government to set up 20 IITs.

21. Final successful test of Akash missile •Services sector accounts for 55% of GDP, agr. 17% and industry 28%.

23. BJP wins Gujarat elections, (117 against 62 of Congress), Modi is CM the third time.

24. Kerala achieves total financial inclusion, with every household possessing at least one bank account •Insurance

sector to cross Rs. 2 lakh crore mark by 2010 •Telephone connections rise to 264.77m. •3 of 5 civilians held hostage by militants in a mosque in Palnoo Panditpora rescued •Pankaj Advani wins snooker title, after winning the billiards title.

26. New Delhi's Akshardham temple makes it to the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest Hindu temple complex •Kiran Bedi's voluntary retirement pleas accepted •Violence in Orissa's Kandhamal district - bandh called by Kui Samaj, the tribal organisation; VHP



Narendra Modi

IT and BPO Service

According to a survey, more than a fourth of the 100 best IT and BPO service providers across the globe are headquartered in India



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- M.E. Information Technology - Marine*
- M.E. Computer Science - Marine*
- M.E. Electronics & Communication Engg. - Marine*
- M.E. Marine Engineering

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- M.Com / M.Com Management Information System

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- M. Pharmacy (Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology)
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- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
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activists' agitation.

28. BJP swept back to power in H.P.

31. Indian stock market's market capitalisation put at Rs. 72 lakh cr., up by 118% in the year.

2008

January

Tata's Nano Unveiled

1. India and Pakistan exchange the lists of their nuclear installations.

2. Sensex at a record high of 20,529.

3. 95th Indian Science Congress opens in Visakhapatnam • Nagaland brought under President's rule • UGC proposes a uniformity in curriculum across all universities.

5. Every Delhiite to carry ID card from Jan 15 • Jyothi Basu declares that socialism is not possible now.

6. Harbhajan Singh banned for three tests for committing a level 3.3 offence during the Sydney tests.

7. Effigies of Australian captain Ricky Ponting and ICC umpires Bucknor and Benson burnt in a protest in New Delhi against the ban on Harbhajan Singh.

8. Sensex crosses 21,000.

9. L K Advani suggests Bharat Ratna for AB Vajpayee • BJP says it favours a separate Telangana state • President Pratibha Patil urges overseas Indian community to help nation keep its tryst with destiny.

10. Auto Expo 2008, India's largest auto show, opens in New Delhi • Tata's people's car - the 623 cc Nano, the world's cheapest car at Rs. 1 lakh, unveiled by Ratan Tata in New Delhi, at the 9th Auto

Expo • Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis arrives on a four day visit.

11. Malaysian Indian leader S. Krishnan wamy shot dead at Johor Baharu.

12. A devastating fire in Burrabazar, Kolkata destroys 200 shops • Gold zooms to Rs.11,395 • PM leaves for China • U.P. Chief Minister Mayawati wants Bharat Ratna to be awarded to BSP founder Kanshi Ram.

13. Manmohan Singh holds discussions with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in Beijing.

14. Joint Declaration signed by PM of India and China in Beijing aims at bilateral cooperation in civilian nuclear



Bird flu in West Bengal

energy • Bird flu reported in West Bengal • Burrabazar fire in Kolkata raging for the third day.

15. Reliance Power raises \$3 billion within a minute; India's biggest IPO fully subscribed, covering 10.5 times at the end of the day • Mayawati, 50 today, favours a three-way division of UP, launches Rs.40,000 cr. Noida-Ballia Express project.

16. 3 ministers resign in Goa, triggering a crisis • Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany in India.

ONGC's Record

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(CSR-GHRC Survey 2009)

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17. Centre approves a Rs. 1800 cr. job scheme for the disabled • Anil Kumble's 600th Test wicket achieved in the 3rd test at Perth • Kerala to have a new greenfield international airport in Kannur • Centre to ensure 4p.c. growth of farm sector • Government reduced to a minority, Goa House prorogued • Supreme Court rules that patient's consent a must for all surgeries.

18. Bird flu spreads to new areas, culling intensified



French President Sarkozy with Indian President Pratibha Patil

19. India beats Australia in third cricket test at Perth by 72 runs • Goa rebels to be accommodated in the cabinet.

20. British PM Gordon Brown in India • Setting up of a second States Reorganisation Commission ruled out.

21. 1408 points shaved off in sensex - the sharpest ever fall • Israeli satellite Tescar put into orbit by India's PSLV vehicle PSLV-C10 • 11 sentenced to life in Bilkis Bano case.

22. Teledensity is 23.89% • In primary,

upper primary education, Kerala is the top achiever, followed by Puducherry, Delhi and Tamil Nadu, Bihar is the worst performer.

23. Bird flu spreads to almost half of West Bengal.

25. Padma Awards announced : No Bharat Ratna • Sensex registers 1140 point gain - the biggest ever • Gold is Rs. 11,760 per 10 gm • Strike by PSU banks employees.

26. 59th Republic Day celebrated. French President Sarkozy is chief guest.

28. BJP to give 33% quota for women in party posts • 63 LTTE militants and three security force personnel killed in Sri Lanka • Supreme Court stays the execution of death sentences awarded to Yakub Abdul Razak Memon in '93 Mumbai blasts • Indian School of Business ranked 20th among world's top 100 business schools by 'Financial Times'.

29. Cricketer Harbhajan Singh cleared the charge of racially abusing Australian allrounder Andrew Symonds, at appeal hearing in Adelaide • India's biggest ever arms deal with US cleared - Rs.4000 cr. deal to buy 6 large transport planes.

30. Gandhiji's ashes immersed in the Chowpathy bay off Mumbai.

31. Launch of Indo-Russian micro-satellite 'YouthSat' postponed to 2008 end.

February

Baba Amte Passes Away

1. Reliance Power Ltd. completes allotment of shares in IPO, and emerges as a company with 42 lakh shareholders • India and Pakistan to exchange defence analysts • NCW wants

President's Salary

The President of India's salary has been raised to Rs. 1,50,000 a month and that of the Vice President to Rs. 1,25,000. The Governor's salary is Rs. 1,10,000 now.

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N-10 Law English	55	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75
N-45 The English Language	55	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75
N-79 The English Language	55	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75
N-274 How to Write English	55	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75
N-317 Perfect English	55	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75
N-327 Model English	55	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75	N-314 All India Pre-Medical	75
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eve-teasing to be made non-bailable offence
 •NSSO puts Kerala as the state with the highest monthly per capita consumer expenditure in both rural and urban areas. Lowest is Chhattisgarh (rural) and Bihar (urban).

2. Karnataka's luxury train 'The Golden Chariot' flagged off by President Mrs. Patil
 •29 lakh birds culled in West Bengal's bird flu affected districts •Chill destroys crops worth Rs. 50,000 cr. in north India.

3. Mayawati asks all public servants to sign a no-dowry pledge. •Violence in Mumbai, Thane and Nashik following Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Raj Thackeray's tirade against North Indians.

5. MNS leaders arrested in Mumbai
 •Four Forward Bloc activists killed in police firing in Cooch Behar.

6. 39 youths abducted by NSCN(K) from Arunachal Pradesh and taken to training camps in Myanmar •Quasquicentennial (125 year) celebrations launched by India Post •Law Commission proposes reducing the minimum age of marriage for men from 21 to 18.

7. Ministry of Agriculture hopes food grain output will touch an all-time high of 219.32m. tonnes in 2007-08 •Mizoram plans to encourage population growth by extending maternity benefits for the birth of upto four children.

8. 17 killed in avalanches in J&K •India asks for deportation of kidney racket kingpin Amit Kumar arrested in Nepal •Inflation moves up to 4.11% •Forex reserves rise to a record \$292.672 b. •Emaar MGF, real estate major, withdraws IPO as the issue can't get fully subscribed.

9. Baba Amte (94) dies at Anandvan,

Warora, Maharashtra •Raj Thackeray reiterates his stand on North Indians and warns UP, Bihar leaders against any show of strength in Mumbai •NHRC says West Bengal government should bear the responsibility for Nandigram violence.

10. Six LeT ultras held in U.P. •JMM chief Shibu Soren acquitted of charge of murdering his former secretary Shashinath Jha.

11. SBI cuts prime lending rate by 0.25 percentage points

12. Sensex drops to five-month low of 16,600 •A tiger census report says India's tiger population has fallen from 3642 in 2001-02 to 1411.

13. A new WHO study says 20% of Indian men die due to smoking •In Maharashtra, Raj Thackeray arrested, but out on bail in hours; thousands of North Indians leave Nashik.

14. Petrol price hiked by Rs.2 and diesel by Re.1 •Cabinet approves implementation of recommendation of Delimitation Commission •Maternity benefit given to working women increased.

15. Gwarikar's 'Jodhaa Akbar' cleared but protests by Rajput groups prevent shows in Rajasthan •Election Commission



'Jodhaa Akbar'

527 Girls for 1000 Boys

Sex ratio has declined further in five northern States. In Punjab, there were only 527 girls for every 1000 boys in 2005.



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issues notice to Sonia Gandhi seeking her response to an allegation that she had incurred disqualification as M.P. for accepting the 'Order of Leopold' from the Belgium King in November, 2006 • One-third of India's youth are illiterate, says TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) in a research paper • Centre decides to extend visa of Taslima Nasreen.

16. 15 killed in naxalite raids on Orissa police depots.

17. Screening of 'Jodhaa Akbar' stopped in Ahmedabad following protests by Rajput community • A study says one in every 30 e-mails in India contains virus • With 93 m. additions in a year, India is world's fastest growing cell phone market.

18. Delhi's amusement park Appughar closed • C.B. Bhavde takes over as SEBI Chairman • Rubber RSS 4 tops Rs. 100 per kg.

19. Centre sanctions four more India Reserve battalions for Chhattisgarh to fight naxalite violence.

20. M.S. Dhoni is won by team Chennai for a staggering \$1.5 m. (Rs. 6 cr.) in the DLF Indian Premier League players auction • Gold touches a record high of Rs. 12,000 per 10 gm. • SBI cuts interest rates for the second time in less than 10 days.

21. Proposal to increase number of judges in SC from 26 to 31 approved by Cabinet.

22. Jyothi Basu expresses desire to quit Polit Bureau, after being its member for 44 years • Yahya Khan, software engineer arrested in Bangalore for suspected terrorist links, is believed to be a top SIMI

functionary • Inflation at six-month high of 4.35 p.c. • Natwar Singh quits Rajya Sabha.

23. Election in Tripura • Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk inducted into IAF; they replace MiG-21s • Delhi police crack a racket which has sent over 100 people to US in the last 3 years using forged documents



Defence Minister A.K. Antony on the Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk

• MNS asks Congress President to send back 25 lakh Biharis in Mumbai to their home state.

24. Reliance Power offers 3:5 bonus, making effective price of share Rs. 269 • Panamanian cargo vessel MV Rezzak with 25 Indians goes missing • Lok Sabha Speaker expresses surprise over CJI's reported statement that he would not hear social activist Teesta Setalvad or anyone associated with her • Over 25,000 north Indians leave Pune, fearing violence.

The Ill-informed Farmer

The Indian farmers are mostly dependent on informal and often unreliable sources of information. According to the 59th NSSO survey, only 8 per cent are aware of the WTO, 29 per cent know about minimum support price, only 18 per cent are aware of biofertilizers. Seventy one per cent do not 'belong' to any cooperative. Only five per cent are members of self-help groups.



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25. HDFC Bank and Centurion Bank of Punjab to merge, creating India's largest private sector bank in terms of branches • Centre to issue showcase notices to 17 SEZs in Goa • Biennial elections to 56 Rajya Sabha seats to be held on Mar. 26 • Maruti Suzuki India's exports set to cross 5 lakh units • India begins another round of talks with IAEA in Vienna.

26. Lalu Prasad presents Railway Budget: no hike in fares, 7% cut in AC first class, 4% in AC second during lean season, free season tickets to students, 50% discount for women above 60, e-ticketing to improve, 53 new pairs of trains, 10 new Garib Raths, modular toilets, etc. proposed



Lalu Prasad Yadav

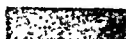
• Government to go ahead with implementation of pictorial warnings on cigarette and beedi packets • Railway plans Rs. 2.5 lakh cr. investment in 5 years • ISRO thinks the Mars mission is possible before 2015 • Foodgrain production in 07-08 estimated at a record level of 219.32 m. tonnes.

27. Russia to deliver aircraft carrier Gorshkov by 2011 • Three school teachers in UP jailed for discriminating against Dalits in the mid-day meal scheme • Gold touches new peak of Rs. 12,415 per 10 gram.

28. Economic Survey maintains that sustaining 9 p.c. growth will be a tough challenge • 40th anniversary celebrations of Auroville, Puducherry • 'Economic Sur-

vey' calls for a second Green Revolution to rejuvenate the agriculture sector.

29. Rs. 60,000 crore debt waiver for farmers proposed in Chidambaram's Union Budget (to benefit 4 cr. indians); threshold limit for personal income tax raised to Rs. 1.5 lakh, senior citizens' limit is 2.25 lakh; excise on two-wheelers & small cars reduced; short term capital gains tax raised to 15%; defence spending crosses Rs. 1 lakh crore • IITs are to be set up in AP, Bihar and Rajasthan • Per capita debt of Indians is Rs. 22,647 against Rs. 3500 in '90-'91.



March

Four Indian Billionaires

1. Trade unions protest against the suggestion in the Economic Survey to raise working time from 48 hours to 60 hours a week • 'Jodha Akbar' banned in U.P. • Former CMAjit Jogi acquitted in the case of murder of NCP leader Ram Avatar Jaggi • Foundation for India's first marina laid east of Bolghatty island, Kerala.

2. India regains the under-19 cricket World Cup crown after 8 years with a 12-run victory over South Africa • Virgin Group ties up with Tatas for telecom • Sporadic incidents of violence in Nandigram, West Bengal.

3. Meghalaya Assembly elections • Sensex has a 900.84 point fall • Four Telangana Rashtra Samiti members quit Lok Sabha • Indian national Kashmir Singh released from Lahore Central jail • Left parties warn UPA government not to operationalise the nuclear deal and say the Hyde Act will hurt India's sovereignty

Nurses for AIDS Care

Indian Nursing Council is to train 100,000 nurses in AIDS care and treatment, with a \$33 m. aid from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva.



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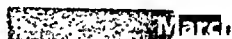
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28. Economic Survey maintains that sustaining 9 p.c. growth will be a tough challenge • 40th anniversary celebrations of Auroville, Puducherry • 'Economic Sur-

vey' calls for a second Green Revolution to rejuvenate the agriculture sector.

29. Rs. 60,000 crore debt waiver for farmers proposed in Chidambaram's Union Budget (to benefit 4 cr. Indians); threshold limit for personal income tax raised to Rs. 1.5 lakh, senior citizens' limit is 2.25 lakh; excise on two-wheelers & small cars reduced; short term capital gains tax raised to 15%; defence spending crosses Rs. 1 lakh crore • ITs are to be set up in AP, Bihar and Rajasthan • Per capita debt of Indians is Rs. 22,647 against Rs. 3500 in '90-'91.



Four Indian Billionaires

1. Trade unions protest against the suggestion in the Economic Survey to raise working time from 48 hours to 60 hours a week • 'Jodha Akbar' banned in U.P. • Former CMA Jit Jogi acquitted in the case of murder of NCP leader Ram Avatar Jaggi • Foundation for India's first marina laid east of Bolghatty island, Kerala.

2. India regains the under-19 cricket World Cup crown after 8 years with a 12-run victory over South Africa • Virgin Group ties up with Tatas for telecom • Sporadic incidents of violence in Nandigram, West Bengal.

3. Meghalaya Assembly elections • Sensex has a 900.84 point fall • Four Telangana Rashtra Samiti members quit Lok Sabha • Indian national Kashmir Singh released from Lahore Central jail • Left parties warn UPA government not to operationalise the nuclear deal and say the Hyde Act will hurt India's sovereignty

Nurses for AIDS Care

Indian Nursing Council is to train 100,000 nurses in AIDS care and treatment, with a \$33 m. aid from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva.

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Dhan Laxmi', a new scheme for the girl child (a cash package of Rs. 2 lakh to the girl's family) launched by centre.

4. India wins in the Commonwealth Bank tri-series in Australia.

5. Elections in Nagaland - 85% voter turnout • Mercy petition of Sonabjit Singh, condemned to death in Pakistan rejected by President Musharraf • The 15th launch of BrahMos test-fired • Maharashtra Governor S.M. Krishna resigns.

6. Shibu Soren acquitted by a Jharkhand court in a 33-year-old massacre case • Four Indians - Lakshmi Mittal, Mukesh Ambani, Anil Ambani, and K.P. Singh - find place in the top 10 Forbes billionaires • Defence Minister says there is no plan to let women officers serve more than 13 years in armed forces • Government buildings in Delhi to be made quake-resistant.

7. Sensex dips below 16,000 mark • First passenger flight trial at Bangalore International Airport, Devanahalli • Inflation at 5.02% breaches RBI's tolerance limit • The ruling left retains Tripura, the fourth consecutive term • Forex reserves cross \$300 b • Rahul Gandhi begins his 'Discovery India' tour • In Meghalaya, Congress emerges the single largest party bagging 25 out of 59 seats • D.A for Central staff hiked by 6 p.c.

8. Pranab Mukerjee rules out early polls • Government says the controversy over Army Chief Gen. Kapoor's remarks with regard to 'incursions' across LOAC in Arunachal was avoidable • India and Russia sign Rs.3840 cr. MiG-29 deal.

9. SBI's 10,000th branch opened at Puduvayal, Sivaganga dist., Tamil Nadu • Credit card frauds have gone up by 80%

over the past three years • BJP-RSS attack CPI (M) headquarters in Del

10. D. D. Lapang sworn in



D.D. Lapang

Meghalaya • es burnt in rah dist. of Bengal, follo communalvi • Subash Ghi resigns as care administrator Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council • CPM-

led Left Front government under Manik Sarkar sworn in Tripura • Japanese loan of Rs. 7074 cr. approved for various projects including Delhi and Kolkata Metro • India to exit from hockey in coming Olympics after 0-2 defeat against Britain • Seven villages in M.P. and Chhattisgarh evacuated due to Maoist threat.

11. Crude import price crosses \$100 mark

12. Democratic Alliance of Nagaland Ministry led by Neiphiu Rio sworn in.

13. NSE is among world's top 10 F&O bourses • Kerala CM hopes the state will be e-literature by year-end.

14. Sonia Gandhi completes 10 years as Congress President • Spot gold is near \$1,000 mark • Goa plans to ban sale of land to foreigners • Inflation is 5.11 p.c. • Forex reserves rise to \$304 b. • Supreme Court asserts that every Indian has the right to settle anywhere in the country.

15. UP Chief Minister Mayawati writes to Prime Minister asking for UP to be divided into smaller states like Poorvanchal, Bundelkhand and western UP.

16. Gold at record high of Rs.13,110

Income Over Rs. 10 lakh

Number of taxpayers earning Rs. 10 lakh a year reached 177,500 in 06-07 (against 97,412 in 05-06), a number expected to go still higher in 07-08.

All India Muslim Women Personal Law Board comes out with a new 'Shariat nikahnama', which makes marriage registration compulsory • Dalai Lama says China deserves to host the Olympic Games • Mathew Hayden of Australia rejects his 'obnoxious weed' remark on Harbhajan Singh • Blast in Assam kills 4, injures 60 • Centre to recognize foreign PG degrees in medicine from English speaking countries - UK, US, Canada, Australia & New Zealand.

17. Sensex tanks 951 points.

18. IG of police R.K. Sharma convicted in Shivani Bhatnagar murder case • 17 Maoists killed in major encounter in Chhattisgarh.

19. Donkumar Roy is Meghalaya CM, after DD Lapang ministry resigns ahead of a trust vote • Tobacco packets to carry pictorial warning from June 24 • Lok Sabha passes Maternity Benefit Bill, bonus increased from Rs. 250 to Rs.1,000 for working women.

20. Inflation is 5.92% • Home Minister says Naxal problem is confined to only 2% of the country's 6.5 lakh villages • Smart City (Kochi) gets SEZ status.

22. In an e-governance survey, Delhi is the best e-governed state in 2007, followed by Goa and Chattisgarh • Government is to come out with a National Action Plan on climate change soon • L. K. Advani's memoir 'My Country, My Life' released.

23. The new airport at Shamshabad, (Hyderabad) open • CPI's 20th national conference begins in Hyderabad.

24. Pranab Mukerjee meets President Bush in US to discuss the nuke deal • Sixth



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at release of Advani's *My Country, My Life*

Pay Commission recommends 40% hike in salary of Central Government staff and a doubling of most of their allowances, which impose a burden of Rs. 12,561 cr. on the exchequer in 08-09 • US, after talks with Pranab Mukherjee, says it will continue to work on the nuke deal • IPS officer R.K. Sharma gets life term for Shivani Bhatnagar murder case • Former BCCI chief Jagmohan Dalmiya faces charges of misappropriation of Rs.2.90 cr.

25. Sensex (928 up) scores second largest single-day points gain this year • Special Investigation Team to conduct a fresh probe into 14 post-Godhra communal riots cases.

26. Tata Motors bag Ford Motor Company's UK assets Jaguar Land Rover for \$2.3 b. .

27. Government to set up a Farmers' Debt Relief Fund, with an initial corpus of Rs.10,000 cr. to operationalise the farm loan waiver scheme • RBI statistics say 4750 rural bank branches closed down in 15 years, while scheduled commercial bank branches in metros doubled.

28. Inflation rises to 6.68 p.c. • IIMs for Tamil Nadu, J&K, Jharkhand, Chhat-

You Smoke, Office Pays

If a staff member smokes in the office, the organisation will be fined, says a new rule issued by Union Health Ministry.

garh, Uttarakhand and Haryana - and for Orissa, MP, Gujarat and Punjab, RD Minister confirms.

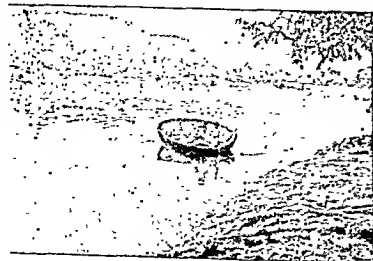
29. Six-day CPI (M) Congress begins at Coimbatore • IIM-A hikes fees from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 11.50 for 2 years • Rahul Dravid becomes the 6th batsman and the third Indian to surpass 10,000 Test runs.

31. Orissa Assembly Speaker Maheswar Mohanty resigns • Supreme Court dismisses petition against Amitabh Bachchan relating to Barabanki land deal • India's external debt is \$201 b. (Rs. 7,94,017 cr.) per capita debt Rs. 7,218 • R.S. Lodha scores victory over Birlas in Supreme Court, as Birlas' plea is rejected in the M.P. Birlas case • Supreme Court not in favour of giving arms to self defence groups 'Salwa Judum' in Chhattisgarh.

APRIL

Union Cabinet Expanded

1. India asks Dalai Lama to refrain from political activities • Stock brokers Ketan Parekh and Hiten Dalal sentenced to one years' imprisonment in connection with the 1992 security scam case • Tamil Nadu demands Centre's intervention in Hogenakkal drinking water supply project,



Hogenakkal

as a Karnataka bandh is being called for to protest the project • Kamlesh Sharma takes over as Secretary General of the Commonwealth • Kandla emerges the largest cargo handling port • Protesters opposing a Posco project at Paradip, Orissa, arrested.

2. BKU leader M.S. Tikait, charged with making a derogatory reference to Chief Minister Mayawati, surrenders, apologises • Scarlett case to be handed over to CBI • Dhaka-Kolkata train to begin on Apr. 14.

3. India assures China that it will ensure the safe passage of the Olympic torch through the country • NC P charges that UPA is not following the 'coalition dharma' • Prakash Karat is re-elected CPI(M) General Secretary • Abdul Khaliq Dar, Hizab ideologue, arrested • Pak film 'Khuda Ke Liye' to be released in India, ending a ban since 1965 • 48 Indian companies appear in Forbes list of world's biggest companies.

4. Inflation rises to 7%.

6. Seven new ministers in Union Council of Ministers, including M.S. Gill and Jyotiraditya Scindia.

8. Explosives meant for ULFA seized on India-Bhutan border • India announces a duty-free tariff preference scheme for exports from 50 LDCs • India Africa Forum summit in New Delhi • A.P. government schools to introduce English from class I.

10. Supreme Court upholds law enacted by Centre in 2006 to provide a quota of 27 p.c. for OBC candidates in Central higher education institutions.

11. Inflation reaches 7.41 p.c., a 40-

India's Heart Disease Burden

A study says by 2010, India will carry 60 p.c. of the world's heart disease burden.

•L.N. Mittal becomes chairman of Arcelor Mittal •SC refuses to stay HC judgement on Singur car project •Blast toll in Jaipur rises to 85. It is found that RDX was used, and perhaps Bangladesh based Harkat-ul-Jehadi-Islami (Huji) has a role •Harbhajan



Harbhajan Singh

Singh gets away with a 5-match ODI ban for slapping Sree Santh.

15. Centre extends ban on LTTE by two years

•India says unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo is contrary

to UN resolution 1244 •89 killed in the high-velocity thunder storm that rips across UP

18. Abducted Indian in Afghanistan, Muhammad Naeem, freed •Reliance announces entry into Hollywood •Sania Mirza pulls out of French Open because of wrist injury.

19. SBI suspends loans for buying tractors and other farm equipments •Jordanian ship with 10 Indians hijacked in Somalia •Human trials of malaria vaccine soon •A 'tiny' area in Sikkim becomes a bone of contention, with China asking Indian army to remove a pile of stones •Jaipur blast death toll is 66.

21. SBI decides to resume loans to tractors and farm equipment.

22. Centre announces relief package worth more than Rs. 330 cr. for victims of post-Godhra riots.

23. Government expands the package

of farm loan waiver to Rs. 71,600 cr.

24. Rubber at all-time high of Rs. 13 (RSS4) •Gujjar stir for ST status continues in Rajasthan, 15 more killed.

25. BJP wins 110 out of 224 seats in Karnataka assembly election, Congress 80, JD(S) 28 •Congress loses Lok Sabha by-election.

26. Reliance Communications enters into negotiations with South Africa telecom giant MTN.

27. Rajasthan government and Gujjar leaders yet to reach an agreement on the mode of disposal of the bodies of those killed in police firing •Record wheat procurement: 210 lakh MT, of which Punjab's share is 100 lakh MT, Haryana's.

28. Abducted engineer S.M. Naeem returns home from Afghanistan.

29. Gujjar agitation in Delhi and Haryana, spreads to U.P.

30. Inflation rises to 8.1 p.c. •B.S. Yeddyurappa sworn in Karnataka CM •Forex



B.S. Yeddyurappa sworn in

reserves rise to \$ 316.171 b. •First unit of 500 MW Sipat stage II power project of NTPC in Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) commissioned •Centre revises GDP growth for

English-medium Schools

Enrolment in English-medium schools in India has gone up from 4.3% to 6.3% in two years ending 2005-06

north high •Forex reserves are a record
311.885 b.

13. Indian Air Force to buy three more
AWACs •Narain Karthikeyan finishes in 5th
place in sprint at Shanghai A1 GP •Biranchi
Das, the coach of marathon runner Budhia
Singh, shot dead •'Gutka' to be banned
in Maharashtra from May.

14. Train services to Dhaka resumed
after 43 years, as Maitree Express rolls
out of Kolkata station on its first journey
to Dhaka •Dalits protest against a wall of
separation in Satara •President Pratibha
Patil in Brazil •Tourism earnings cross
Rs. 10,000 cr.

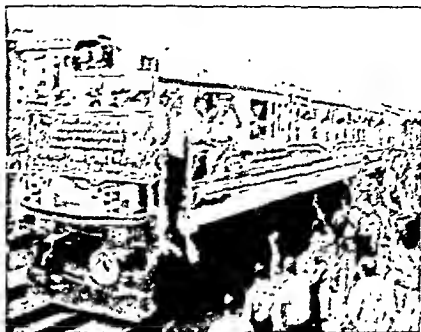
15. Priyanka Gandhi's personal visit to
Nalini Murugan, one of the convicts in
Rajiv assassination case in Vellore Central
Prison, disclosed •Supreme Court says
Ram Setu is no place of worship.

16. IITs to implement 27% for OBCs, in

phases •BSP sweeps by-elections in UP.

17. OBC quota to be implemented in
government run medical colleges in two
years •Olympic torch taken through a
stretch of 2.3 km. in Delhi, with Tibetans
protesting in various places; CRR hiked
by 0.5 p.c.

18. Pakistan postpones hanging



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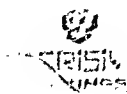
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2007-08 to 9% from the earlier 8.7%.

31. New Delhi regrets denying entry to Pak minister Ansar Burney on 30th • Air Force reopens base in Ladakh region after 43 years.



Manekshaw is No More

1. Rajasthan Chief Minister agrees to allow postmortem on bodies of police firing victims at sites of the agitation where the bodies are kept • Rajasthan Royals win the inaugural DLF-1 Indian Premier League • Cochin Shipyard launches five platform supply ships in a single batch.

2. Prime Minister says oil price hike is inevitable.

3. Assam's Education Minister Ripun Bora, suspect in a murder case, arrested by CBI, while paying a bribe • Gujar protesters block rail track in Dausa • Bodies of 16 Gujar victims cremated.

4. Petrol, diesel, LPG prices hiked by Rs.5, 3 and 50 respectively • Sensex dips by 448 points • Crude oil is exempted from customs duty.

5. Rajasthan government invites Gujjars for talks • Hartal in Kerala, bandh in West Bengal and Tripura to protest petrol price hike • Congress ruled states AP, Delhi and Assam cut levies to cushion the petroleum price increase • Tata group is world's 6th most reputed company in 'Global: 200' compiled by Reputation Institute, USA • Prime Minister ask ministers to go on an austerity drive • Centre asks Rajasthan government to categorize Gujjars as denotified tribe.

6. Rising inflation weakens Sensex • Inflation reaches 8.2 p.c. • Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee meets Chinese Vice President in Beijing - India and China vow to strengthen strategic ties • Mulayam



Reliance refinery, Jamnagar

Singh meets Mayawati in Lucknow, a meet after 13-year gap • With the merger of Centurion Bank of Punjab, HDFC Bank becomes the top private bank with 114B branches, displacing ICICI Bank.

7. Gujjars insist on having Bayara block as venue of talks with Government • Sacked Assam Education Minister Ripun Borah remanded to 14-day judicial custody for allegedly offering Rs.10 lakh bribe to a CBI officer • Reliance Petroleum to construct a new refinery at Jamnagar in less than 3 years, adjacent to existing



Gujjars block railway

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33m. tonne refinery there • Power demand to increase 10-fold by 2050, says AEC Chairman.

8. U.P. minister J.P. Nishad sacked for alleged involvement in the ransacking of Maharajganj police station • Pak Government wants President Musharraf to quit.

9. Sensex loses 506 points, as crude oil jitters continue • BSNL cuts STD rates by 50 p.c. • AP Government to supply 10 kg of rice a month at Rs. 16 a kg to APL cardholders • Australia not to sell uranium to India • Gorkha Janamukti Morcha asks tourists in Darjeeling to leave the hills in a week.

10. Defence Minister says India will follow a non-confrontation approach in resolving the border issue with China • Indefinite bandh by GJM in Darjeeling • Sacked U.P. minister J.P. Nishad arrested.

11. Japanese drug firm Daiichi Sankyo buys a majority state in Ranbaxy for over Rs. 15,000 cr. • Prime Minister Manmohan Singh says the Indo-US nuclear deal will move ahead in the coming months to end the nuclear 'apartheid' • RBI raises repo rate to 8 p.c. • Thousands of people in five villages in north Gujarat evacuated as Narmada Canal breaches • Maharashtra government includes 24 castes for reservation • Rs. 29.8 cr. relief and rehabilitation package announced by Centre for the next of kin of 1989 Bhagalpur riot victims.

13. Inflation is 8.75%, a 7-year high • UPA chairperson underlines the importance of nuclear energy in view of surging



Kamal Hasan in *Dasavatham*

global oil prices • Kamal Hasan's film 'Dasavatham' released • Forex reserves reach a record \$315.66 b. • Indian IT market projected to grow 18% in 2008 and touch \$38 b., the second highest growth after China, says a Forrester study.

14. 14 killed in landslides in Itanagar, Arunachal • Additional taxes of Rs. 15,000-20,000 imposed on high-end cars, MUVs and SUVs • Pranab Mukherjee says he is against the formation of any separate State including Gorkhaland.

15. The 45-day deadline on India-Pakistan Iran gas pipelines ends.

16. States ask Centre to share the burden of revenue loss (Rs. 8,000 cr.) on account of tax cuts on fuels.

17. DMK snaps its ties with Pattal Makkal Katchi • Nilesh Dasgupta held in US for visa fraud • RBI asks NBFCs with net-owned funds of less than Rs. 200 lakh to freeze their deposits at current levels • Syrian President visits India.

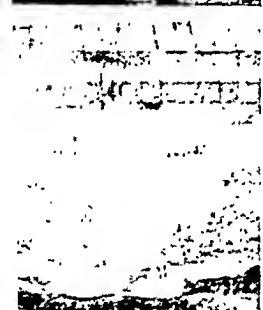
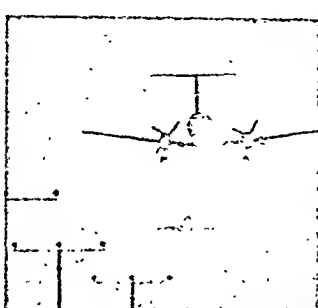
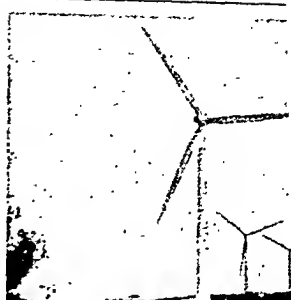
18. New movie venture by Steven Spielberg and Anil Ambani on the anvil • Gujjars call off agitation following an agreement with Rajasthan government • UPA and Left parties appear to be part-

Films

India's first silent movie: Raja Harishekhandra directed by Dada Saheb Phalke (1913). The first Indian English film was Noorjahan (1931) directed by Izra Mir. Alam Ara (1931) by Ardeshir Irani was the first Indian talkie. The first colour movie: Kisan Kanya (1937), directed by Moti B. Gidwani. The first Indian cinemaseope film was Kagaz ke Phool (1959) by Guru Dutt and cameraman C.V.K. Murti and the first 3D movie: My Dear Kuttichathan (1984) in Malayalam directed by Jijo.



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ing ways on Indo-US nuclear deal •GJM chief rejects offer of talks by West Bengal Chief Minister •Flood situation grim in West Bengal.

19. Finance Minister hopes financial inclusion will be a reality in about 3 to 5 years •More freight trains likely between India and Pakistan •Air fares for domestic sectors raised •Rajasthan government creates a special category for giving reservation to Gujjars and three other Backward classes.

20. Inflation gallops to a 13-year high of 11.05 p.c. •Statemate on nuclear deal continues •Edible oils to be sold through ration shops •Nishant, India's UAU, flight-tested successfully •Sensex falls by 516 points.

21. BSP withdraws support to the coalition at Centre •Thousands of Sikhs take to the streets demanding action against Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim for the death of member of the community in Mumbai •Life imprisonment may be given to Sarabjit Singh, on death row in Pakistan instead of hanging.

22. Sikh protests against Dera Sacha Sauda chief spread to Bangalore and Jammu.

23. Australia rules out uranium export to India.

24. RBI hikes repo rates and CRR by 50 basis points each •Protests continue in Srinagar over the issue of land for the Shri Amarnath Board •Kerala's Education Minister rejects Opposition demand for the withdrawal of a VII std. social sciences textbook •Sania Mirza enters the second round of Wimbledon •Sensex touches the below 14000 mark •UP Government wants criminal charge against

Jaya Bachchan for allegedly concealing information on assets.

25. Sikhs disrupt train services in protest against Dera Sacha leader Gurmeet Ram Singh in Amritsar •N.N. Vohra sworn in Governor of J&K •National Translation Mission launched.

26. e-passports scheme launched, public to have it by Sept. 09 •New Governors for Meghalaya (R.S. Mooshahar), Assam (S.C. Mathur), Sikkim/B.P. Singh), Kerala (R.S. Gawai) and Bihar (R.L. Bhatia).

27. As heavy selling sets on, Sensex slides 620 points •Bill Gates calls it a day. Leaves Microsoft to devote more time to philanthropy •Two earthquakes hit Andaman •Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw is dead at 94, in Ooty •Inflation is 11.42 p.c. •Law Commission says a person suffering to live must have a right to die.

28. Congress President Sonia Gandhi asks party leaders to brace up for elections •PDP withdraws support to J&K Government •Earthquake (6.3) off Andaman Islands •Journalists wage board recommends 30% interim relief •Yasin Malik injured in Kashmir violence.

29. J&K Governor withdraws shrine board claim on land.

30. Prime Minister says the nuke deal will be placed before Parliament if negotiations with IAEA and NSG could be completed •Creamy layer upper income limit may be raised to Rs. 5 lakh •National Action Plan on climate change released by PM •Gold prices around Rs.13,000 level •NCW says



A gold bar

E-waste

India produces 1.46 lakh tonnes of e-waste annually. Maharashtra generates over 20,000 tonnes of e-waste a year. Mumbai alone is responsible for 11,000 tonnes per annum.

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ve-in partner should be treated as wife, or maintenance.

July

Explosions in Bangalore & Ahmedabad

1. Sensex falls 500 points, drops below 3,000 • J&K Government cancels the order of transfer of 39.88 hectares of forest land to Shri. Amarnath Shrine Board • CPI (M) says PM's stand on nuclear deal shows disregard for Parliament • Indefinite strike by 35,000 non-teaching employees of nine universities and staff of 250 colleges in Bihar continues with incidents of arson.

2. Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in New Delhi • Violence in Jammu against Amarnath land transfer revocation; curfew imposed • Truckers' strike begins • Maize export banned till Oct. 15 • UNPA to take expert opinion on any nuclear deal • APJ Abdul Kalam says the nuclear deal is in the national interest • 11 militants killed in gunbattle in Kashmir • Prime Minister says all capitals of northeastern states will be linked by rail.

3. Bharat bandh called by Vishwa Hindu Parishad and BJP to protest non-transfer of land to Amarnath Shrine Board • US spokesman Ackerman says nuclear deal should be approved by Congress by August • The 7th IIM (Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management, Shillong) begins functioning.

5. 3-day nationwide truckers strike called off.



Bomb in Kabul

6. Inflation is 11.63 p.c. • Samajwadi Party to support UPA on nuke deal.

7. Suicide bomber strikes Indian embassy in Kabul killing 40 persons • J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad resigns • Rain below normal in Cherapunje • ULFA expels three leaders of 28 Battalion.

8. Left parties announce withdrawal of support to UPA Government, over the latter's move to push ahead with Indo-US nuke deal • China says they are willing to cooperate with India on developing civil nuclear energy • S.C. Jamir is appointed Governor of Maharashtra • Kalka-Shimla Railway line included in UNESCO Heritage List.

9. India's software and services revenue to grow between 21 and 24% during 2008-09 to touch \$ 62-64 b. • India sends safeguards agreement to IAEA Board • Four Left parties send letters to UPA withdrawing their support • Sensex surges 615 points.

10. R.S. Gavai is sworn in Governor of Kerala • Narmada oustees hold protest March for a better deal in resettlement and rehabilitation • Assam Gana Parishad is opposed to Indo-US nuclear deal.

11. Governor's rule imposed in J&K

Narcoanalysis

India is the only country in the civilised world where narcoanalysis or truth-serum test is being used by investigative agencies. Other countries have tried, tested and discarded narcoanalysis.



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Kerala Assembly demands Centre's withdrawal from the Indo-US nuclear deal
inflation soars to 11.89%.

12. Union Government to set up an IT park in Dimapur, Nagaland.

13. Kerala reports 95 p.c. deficiency of rain for the week • Usha Mittal and Tina Ambani in the *Forbes* Wives of Billionnaires' list • CPM Secretary Prakash Karat meets Jayawati • Amitabh Bachchan family to stage a glittering stage show 'Unforgettable'



Stage show 'Unforgettable'

able' that will travel around the world to promote Hindi-language film.

14. Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Trivandrum, gets deemed university status • Mukesh Ambani argues against windfall tax.

15. Sensex down to 12,676. Fitch Ratings downgrades India's local currency outlook from 'stable' to 'negative' • Gold touches Rs. 13,650 • Uproarious scenes in Rajasthan Assembly over Gujjar reservation issue.

16. Sensex hits 16-month low of 12,575 • Rahul Gandhi says the nuclear deal is worth the risk • Maoists kill 20 policemen in Malkangini, Orissa • Bush in Jammu.

17. Creation of new IITs at a cost of

Rs.6080 cr. approved • Krishnapatnam port near Nellore dedicated to the nation by Sonia Gandhi • Lucknow airport to be named after Charan Singh • GSPC strikes \$100 b. worth gas at K-G basin.

18. RCom-MTN deal called off • IAEA Board and NSG members briefed by Foreign Secretary • CPM wants speaker Somnath Chatterjee to quit, but he doesn't oblige.



Somnath Chatterjee

20. Shibu Soren's JMM to back UPA in confidence vote, whereas Deve Gowda's JD(S) and Ajit Singh's RLD to vote against it • Violence in Ahmedabad after protesters demand inquiry into the death of two boys • Mayawati is regional parties' choice for Prime Minister • Old boy Romesh Wadhvani donates \$ 5m. to his alma mater IIT-Bombay • Tapan Sinha selected for Phalke award 2006 • Mamta Banerjee to abstain from voting in the trust vote.

22. UPA government of Manmohan Singh wins the trust vote in Lok-Sabha by a margin of 19 votes (275-256) • Lok Sabhashocked when three BJP MPs allege that they were bribed by an ally of the UPA to abstain from voting.

23. Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee is expelled from the membership of the Communist Party for not resigning before the special LS session • BJP expels 8 MPs for cross voting and abstentions during trust motion • Centre asserts in S.C. that Lord Ram himself destroyed Ramar Sethu after his victory over Ravana • Tata

A Record in an Assam Village

Chautaki village in Assam has a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for planting 2.8 lakh saplings on 30 hectares in 24 hours. This was carried out by 300 villagers in a project, and sponsored by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.



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motors seeks Fiat's help in selling Nano overseas • BSE gains 838 points on governments' trust win • BSNL to invest Rs.42,000 cr. over the next three years.

24. SBI-State Bank of Saurashtra merger okayed by cabinet • Inflation eases marginally to 11.89%.

25. Bangalore city rocked by nine serial blasts within an hour-two killed, 20 injured • Prime Minister seeks Russia's support for nuclear deal.

26. Ahmedabad is stunned by 12 explosions in 45 minutes • 7-member Lok Sabha panel to probe bribery allegation against the BJP MPs • Dere Sacha Sauda chief to be charged with rape • A live bomb found at a Bangalore mall • ONGC to resume oil exploration along the Kerala-Konkan coast • Bangalore - Ahmedabad serial bombings focus attention on SIMI networks.

27. Toll in Ahmedabad serial blasts rises to 46 • Two cars loaded with explosives found in Surat • National scheme to provide subsidised edible oil for BPL families inaugurated

28. SP wants Government to press the US to amend the Hyde Act • RBI says inflationary pressures will continue • Kalawati



Kalawati Bandurkar

Bandurkar and her nine children whose story was recounted by Rahul Gandhi adopted by Sulabh • A Pakistani incursion in northern Kashmir repulsed.

29. RBI raises repo rate by 50 basis points to 9% and CRR by 25 points to 9% • GDP growth rate projection is lowered to 8% • Surat police unearth 18 live bombs and defuse them • Speaker Somnath Chatterjee may quit action politics • Sensex falls by 588 points to touch 13,791 • India and Pakistani commanders meet to end border clashes that threaten to undermine the ceasefire.

30. Pakistan has violated the LoC ceasefire 19 times since January, says Indian Defence Minister • Fresh hiring reported on LoC in northern Kashmir • Centre approves 91 SEZs for Andhra • Government considers alternative route to Sethu project.

31. Inflation rises to 11.98% • Magsaysay Award won by Prakash and Mandakini Amte.

August

Abhinav Bindra's Gold

1. Board of Governors of IAEA approves Indian safeguards agreement • Lakhs take holy dip in the Brahmasarovar, Kurukshetra, on the partial solar-eclipse • Fire engulfs five coaches of the Secunderabad-Kakinada Gautami Express near Kesamudram railway station, killing 32 • PM, in Colombo for Saarc summit, holds talks with Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa.

2. IIT-Rajasthan inaugurated • Orissa launches a Rs.2 a kg rice scheme for the poor • Poor monsoon causes 10% energy shortage, Maharashtra worst-hit.

What is ACD?

It is the 31-nation Asian Cooperation Dialogue, which met in Astana in Oct. 08. Formed in 2002 in Thailand, ACD began with 18 nations. The latest member is Kyrgyzstan. India is a founding-member of this Organisation.

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Stampede at Naina Devi Temple

3. Stampede in Naina Devi temple (H.P.) claims 140 lives • 40 killed in road accident in Kakshisarai, Bihar.

4. India announces \$450 m. more assistance to Afghanistan • Bombay High Court disallows Niketa Mehta's request for abortion of 26 week foetus with a heart defect • Rupert Murdoch to invest \$100 m. in India to start six regional channels • UPA allies charge that BJP stage-managed MPs bribery scam for political gains.

5. A call to blockade the Jammu-Srinagar highway over the Amamath land issue triggers violent protests in Srinagar • Supreme Court slams centre for its refusal to amend law for launching original prosecution against corrupt people in power • The third generation anti-tank missile Nag testfired successfully.

6. All 8 members of Amamathji Shrine Board resign • Tribunal order quashing Centre's notification declaring SIMI unlaw-

ful stayed by SC. • S. Rangarajan resigns as Chairman, PM's EAC. • Bangladeshi writer Taslima is back in India. • Honorary D. Sc. conferred on Ratan Tata at IIT-Bombay by President Pratibha Patil.

9. Mayawati says no one can stop her from becoming Prime Minister • Dope-tainted Monika Devi declared 'clean' by IWF • Natwar Singh joins BSP.

10. 250 people trapped inside a cave temple in Rajasthan's Kota district • All-party meeting in Srinagar • Manipur Chief Minister seeks CBI probe into keeping Monika Devi out of Beijing Olympics • Law Commission suggests a minimum sentence of 10-year imprisonment for acid attack offences • Monsoon fury in Maharashtra • Committee headed by B.K. Chaturvedi recommends hike in petrol price by Rs. 2.50 p.m. until Mar. 09, and diesel prices by 75 p.m. for 24 months.

11. Abhinav Bindra wins a gold medal for India at Beijing in 10m. air rifles shooting-India's first-ever individual Olympics gold medal.

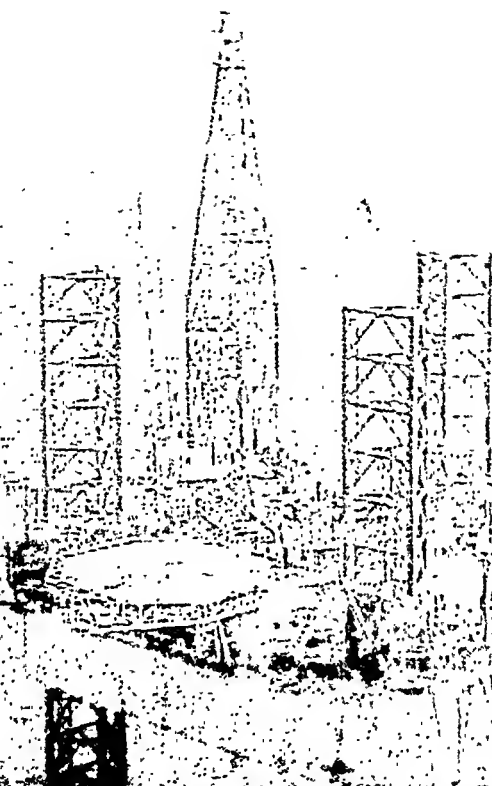
12. BJP President Raj Nath wants the Amamath Yatra route nationalised • India contests President Bush's statement that the American commitment on reliable supply of nuclear fuel was not legally binding.

13. Former RBI Governor S. Rangarajan nominated to Rajya Sabha • Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council pegs economic growth at 7.7 p.c. for the current fiscal, while FM says he is confident of 8% growth • Pinaka tested successfully • SEBI cuts the time duration for a rights issue from 109 days to 43 days • 20 dead in Mumbai building collapse • Clashes continue in Kashmir.

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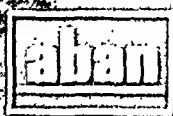
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14. Abhinav Bindra, Olympic gold medalist at Beijing, meets President Pratibha Patil in New Delhi • Christian prayer halls attacked in Karnataka • Sensex closes below 15,000 mark • Private PFs can invest 5% in stock market • Central staff to get 21% pay hike as government accepts 6th pay Commission recommendations

15. 21% pay hike for Central government staff (about 50 lakh employees including defence personnel) - cost to exchequer Rs. 22,131 cr. • Kerala's health insurance scheme covering one crore people to be operational on Oct. 2. • Governor of J&K invites agitators for talks.

16. Sonia Gandhi says Manmohan Singh is Prime Minister candidate.

17. JMM withdraws support to Jharkhand's Koda government • Rain kills 41 in UP.

18. SBI officers' strike • TRAI allows internet telephony • VW to launch Beetle in India.

19. Eight-digit PAL to replace PIN.

20. At NSG meet in Vienna, three nations raise questions about allowing India to resume civil nuclear trade with the world • India's Sushil Kumar wins a bronze at Beijing, in the 66 kg Men's Freestyle wrestling event • Industrial strike called by the left trade unions - worst-affected are Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal • Violence erupts in Jammu again.

21. Leading lawyers R.K. Anand and I.U. Khan found guilty of criminal contempt of court in BMW hit-and-run case • The 3rd runway at IGI airport, Delhi opened - the 4430 m. runway is the longest in India.

22. Vijender wins India's first Olympic (bronze) medal for boxing.

25. VHP bandh protesting the killing of Swami Lakshmananda.

26. Rupee nearing 44-mark • Finance Minister says 8-9% GDP growth is here to stay • A world class university to be set up in Assam • Telugu superstar Chiranjeev launches his political party 'Praja Rajyam' • Violence spreads in Orissa.

27. Flood situation worsens in Bihar, death toll is 55 • JMM leader Shibu Soren sworn in as Chief Minister of Jharkhand • Militants kill four persons in Jammu and take 7 hostage • Violence in Orissa continues, with Christian institutions as targets • Olympic bronze medal winners Sushil Kumar and Vijender Kumar call on President.

28. India and Asean clinch a free trade pact • Prime Minister says Bihar floods is a national calamity • Inflation is 12.40% • Mayawati joins Sonia Gandhi in *Forbes* list of 100 most powerful women in the world • ICAR develops India's first hybrid variety of mustard seed.

29. Tatas evacuate workers from Singur • Australian police drops investigation against Indian doctor Mohammed Haneef.

30. Nano plant shut for the second day • Maoists kill 12 cops in Jharkhand • India not to accept the waiver from NSG if the 'red lines' set by it are crossed.

31. Two-month long Jammu agitation over Amamath land issue ends • Eight prayer houses damaged in Koraput dist., Orissa • In Bihar's worst flood in 50 years, thousands yet to be evacuated • Thousands in Orissa seek shelter in relief camps following communal violence after the killing of Swami Lakshmananda • Rice

The World's largest Aircraft in India

Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger aircraft, arrived at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad on Oct. 16, for the India Aviation 2008, the 4-day mega air show in Hyderabad.

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to be sold at Re. 1 a kg. in Tamil Nadu to mark Annadurai's birth centenary • Hindu nurses in South Africa can now use 'bindis' on their foreheads.

September

India Enter the Nuclear Club

1. Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao to be next RBI Governor • 558 houses burnt during riots in Orissa since Aug. 23 • Army steps up relief operations in Bihar.

2. Tata Motors announces suspension of work at Singur • A bomb detonated at Manipur CM Ibobi Singh's residence • Higher bonus to workers of 14 PSUs: Rs. 5000-16,000 • Army to evacuate 3 lakh marooned in Bihar; 10 lakh people are affected by floods in Assam • 54th National Film Awards presented • Prime Minister to



Pratibha Patil and Priyamani

visit China again in October • Food riots break out in Madhepura.

3. Life nearing normalcy in riot-ravaged Kandhamal region, Orissa • The Ambani brothers named among the world's 100 most influential and powerful, by 'Vanity Fair'.

4. Ten Indian companies in *Forbes'* top 50 • Tata says Nano will be launched as scheduled • Raj Thackeray barred from addressing public rallies until Sept. 30 • Orissa government not to allow VHP leader Togadia's yatra carrying ashes of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati • Inflation falls to 12.34 p.c. • The new draft waiver for India by the NSG considered disappointing for India by many • India's external debt surges to \$221.2 b. in 2007-08 • R.K. Pachauri re-elected IPCC chairman.

5. Kerala State Development Report says the State can achieve 11% growth • At Vienna talks, Ireland and Austria are reportedly against waivers granted to India in the nuke deal • 17 killed in Assam floods • Talks on Singur chaired by Governor Gandhi • Civic amenities remain out of bounds for about 30 lakh people in Bihar, two weeks after a barrage on Kosi river breached.

6. India enters the nuclear club, as NSG agrees to lift a 34-year old trade embargo, at the end of hectic parleys in Vienna • A 5.8 magnitude earthquake hits Delhi • Reliance Industries makes it to the annual list of world's 100 most respected companies compiled by *Wall Street Journal*.

7. Agreement reached between West Bengal government and the agitators led by Trinamool Congress on Singur.

8. Australia not to sell uranium to India • Raj Thackeray not to make provocative speeches, Mumbai police order • Lakshmi Mittal conferred the third Lifetime Achievement Award • Defence Minister A.K. Antony on a four-day official visit to USA • APJ Abdul Kalam is made Chancel-

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Allan Bloom, Philosopher

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"The purpose of education is to bring out the best in you"

lor of Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram • Work suspension continues at Tata Motors, Singur.

10. Rupee breaches 45-mark on strong dollar purchases.

11. West Bengal government rejects Trinamool Congress' demand for return of 300 acres of land from within the Tata Motors Project area and Singur • Gun-and-grenade attack by militants in NWFP in Pakistan kills 25, injures 50 • Infosys Technologies staff (97,000) insured by LIC, the largest group insurance policy issued by LIC.

13. E. Ahamed is the new all-India President of IUMU • Serial blasts rock Delhi, five blasts in 45 minutes kill 30 and injure over 100 • Ram Vilas Paswan slams BJP demand for separate area within Kashmir Valley for Pandits • Sensex closes below 14,000.

15. Crude oil is \$91-95 a barrel • Rupee falls to below 4 • Stock markets crash, following crisis in US investment banks Lehman Bros. and Merrill Lynch • Nepalese Prime Minister Prachanda, in New Delhi. BJP wants Home Minister Shivraj Patil to resign • Communal violence in Bangalore.

16. Orissa's riot-hit Kandhamal district sees more violence • India-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950 to be reviewed.

18. Inflation is 12.14% • Gold prices surge by Rs. 1000 to Rs. 12,915 per 10 gram • Centre has no plans to bring back POTA.

19. Two suspected militants shot dead in Jamia Nagar, Delhi • Centre issues advisory o Karnataka and Orissa governments

against attack on Christians • Supreme Court asks Chattisghah government to implement NHRC recommendations on Salwa Judum • Karnataka orders judicial probe into attacks on churches and the subsequent communal violence.

20. Flood-hit Orissa has lakhs of people marooned in 15 of the 30 districts.

21. Pepsi Co. to invest \$500 m. in India over three years.

22. Bollywood children's film 'Hari Puttar: A Comedy of Terrors' gets clearance for release from High Court • Biocon ranked the 7th largest employer among the top global biotechnology companies • Prime minister Manmohan Singh leaves on 10-day visit to US and France.

23. India Post has a new logo, plans to offer new services.

24. Five Indian Mujahidden cadre arrested in Mumbai • APJ Abdul Kalam's 'Wings of Fire' to appear in French.

25. Nanavati Commission says the Godhra train fire of Feb. 27, 2002 was 'a pre-planned conspiracy' • Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets President Zardari in New York • India bans import of dairy products from China after reports of deaths of Chinese kids after consuming toxic milk products.

26. Violence continues in Orissa's Kandhamal • Nifty closes below 4000 • Forex reserves rise to \$ 291.92 b.

27. Terrorist attack in a South Delhi market leaves three dead including a 9-year-old boy • Krishnamachari Srikkanth is new chief selector, and Shashank Manmohan BCCI President.

28. Law Commission asks Chief Min-

A Nobel Laureate with Indian Connection

Ronald Ross, the British bacteriologist who discovered the plasmodium parasite, the cause of malaria in the gastrointestinal tract of the Anopheles mosquito in 1897, was in the Indian Medical Service. He was given the Nobel Prize in 1902.

up its popularity as an IT-SEZ even further.

The e-magic is casting its spell over Kerala. Whether it be e-governance, e-learning, e-commerce, e-banking or e-shopping, the e-factor has pervaded all spheres of activity. In fact, today it is one of the key factors that is spearheading our economy. Recognising the impact of this knowledge-based sector, the government is going all out to expand the IT/ITES industry in Kerala on a large scale. Aiming at new horizons in this fast-growing sector, the government has set up a new company, the Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd. (KSITI), which will play a crucial role in identifying locations, partners for investment and the resources required for the implementation of all IT infrastructure projects. This company will also channelise private investments into the sector through the PPP route.

IT Parks: The hub and spoke model development

Unlike other states, development in the IT arena will not be centred around one or two cities in Kerala. The state government has envisaged the expansion of the industry in such a way that almost all the districts will be able to reap a rich harvest from this industry. As part of this development, a hub and spoke model has been planned wherein Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode will be the main hubs while the remaining districts will act as the spokes.

Major projects on the anvil

The phase III expansion of Technopark in 100 acres has already begun, while Infopark in Kochi plans a development of 150 acres in the near future. Another good news is that the country's largest IT Park **Technocity**, is proposed to come up in 500 acres in the state capital and the selection of private partners for this project is underway.

70-acre Cyber Park in Kozhikode (Calicut): This park is envisaged as an IT hub for the developmental activities in the northern region of Kerala. Being set up in an urbanized area, communication network is well developed. The location is also blessed with the proximity of leading educational institutions like IIM, NIT, a medical college, 4 engineering colleges, 14 arts and science colleges, the Calicut University etc. Besides, Kozhikode has both domestic and international air services that

IT Park at Thaliparambu, Kannur: The Thaliparambu Park, which has already got the SEZ approval, will be set up in about 30 acres of land in Kannur District. Located about 50 km away from Kannur town and the proposed Kannur airport, it is also easily accessible from the Calicut airport.

IT Park, Kasaragod: Coming up in about 100 acres of land on the side of the NH to Mangalore, land possession for the Kasaragod Park has been carried out by KSITI and SEZ status has also been obtained. Situated just 50 km away from the Mangalore airport, it is connected to Mangalore city by the National Highway. Since Mangalore is an established IT hub in South India, the spill over from that region will get attracted to the Kasaragod IT Park.

The Infopark at Cherthala, Alappuzha: A 65-acre Infopark is aimed to be developed at Cherthala, which is less than half-an-hour's drive from Kochi. This area is part of the existing, well-developed Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) of the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC). Yet another Infopark being planned at Alappuzha district is at **Ambalappuzha**. About 100 acres of land has been identified and SEZ status has already been granted for the project.

IT Park at Koratty, Trichur: About 40 acres of land has been identified on the side of the National Highway, just 15 km north of Cochin International Airport for the Koratty IT Park. It is a well-developed revenue land, which was in the possession of Madurai Coats under lease and has been retrieved by the Government of Kerala. The land has now been transferred to KSITI through a government order.

Technopark In Kollam district: This is planned to be developed in about 40 acres of land on the banks of Ashtamudi Lake at Kundara in Kollam. It is a fully developed industrial land previously owned by the Kerala Ceramics Ltd.

The total investment in the above mentioned parks is planned to exceed Rs. 10,000 crore after completion. With many more IT Parks coming up, the state expects to have 200,000 IT/ITES professionals directly employed here, leading to an economic boom that will be unparalleled in the state's history.



Government of Kerala



ers of 20 states to set up State Law Commissions • Prime Minister goes to France for India-EU meet.

29. Markets shaken by global tremor, Sensex at 12,595 • Supreme Court refuses stay Centre's notification to impose a ban on smoking places from Oct. 2 • Communal violence in Kandhamal district continues • At Marseille, France supports India's quest for nuclear energy.

30. Nearly 200 pilgrims killed in a stampede at Chamundi Devi temple near Channarayana, on the first day of Navaratri festivities • India and France sign the nuclear agreement in Paris • FM and Sebi assure investors that the Indian market is sound and attractive; Prime Minister says India cannot remain insulated from the US financial meltdown • Riots in Thane • Two blasts in Malegaon kill seven • Flyover collapses in Lucknow, killing 6.

October

Chandrayaan I Launched

1. Krishnamal and Sankaralingam Jaganathan of India win Right Livelihood awards • Serial explosions in Agartala, Tripura, two killed, 100 hurt • Saurav Ganguly is in the team for the Test series against Australia.

2. Ban on smoking in public places becomes effective • Indo-US nuclear deal approved by US senate • The rape of nun sexually assaulted on Aug. 25 is confirmed after medical exam • BJP describes the nuke deal as a 'colossal loss' for India.

3. Tatas to shift Nano car project out of Singur • Inflation falls below 12% • Government to raise income criterion for the creamy layer among OBC from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 4.5 lakh p.a. • Army kills 13 militants in Kashmir.

4. Condoleezza Rice in Delhi for talks on nuke deal • Shoot-at-sight orders

in Assam's Udalguri district • Clashes between Bodos and illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Udalguri dist., Asom: 10 found dead.

5. Assam violence toll goes up to 32 • Kashmir under indefinite curfew.

7. Tatas to relocate its Nano plant in Singur to Sanand in Ahmedabad; 100 acres transferred to Tatas • Saurav Ganguly to retire after Australia series • Parliamentary committee on cash for votes scandal to exonerate Amar Singh, SP leader • Government says there would be no dearth of liquidity as Sensex tanks 954 points but recovers part of the loss.

9. Speaker Somnath Chatterjee cancels his trip to London leading a delegation of parliamentarians after being told he won't be exempted from frisking. It is a matter of principle, he says.

10. Attacks on churches in Tamil Nadu • Sensex tanks 1088 points on panic selling, closes 801 down. FM says the economy is strong and bank deposits are safe • Infosys Technologies net profit in Q2 is up 30% • Inflation dips to 11.8% • Industrial growth slumps to 1.3% in August.

12. Kerala-born Sister Alphonsa elevated to the status of saint by Pope Benedict XVI - the first Indian woman to become a saint • UP cancels allotment of land for coach factory at Lalganj, Rae Bareilly • Nano may be launched on Tata's 71st birthday on Dec. 28 • Commonwealth Youth Games begin at Pune • INLD (of Chauthala) is back in NDA.

13. National Integration Council meets in New Delhi • Sensex surges 781 points • Prime Minister opens the Baglihar power project in Jammu • The two-year-old boy Sonu who fell into a 150-ft deep borewell in Shansabad, Agra pulled out dead • Government takes steps to infuse more liquidity.

14. Arvind Adiga Indian author wins 2008 Man Booker Prize for 'The White

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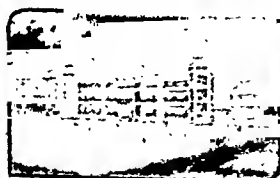
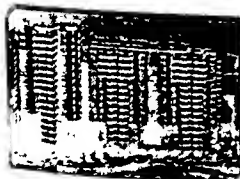
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Tiger' •War of words over Rae Bareilly coach factory between Mayawati and Sonia Gandhi.

15. Jet Airways to retrench 1000 employees •RBI cuts cash reserve ratio by one more point, Rs. 40,000 cr. more to be released to banks.

16. Air India to offer three to five year leave without pay to about 15,000 staff members in non-operational duties •Rajapaksa says he is committed to an enduring political solution to the Tamil question in Sri Lanka •8 Indo-Canadians elected to Canadian Parliament •According to the report by International Food Policy Research Institute, India has 200 m. hungry people.

17. Sensex falls below 10,000, lowest level in 2 years •Jet Airways management to retain 800 retrenched employees •Forex reserves fall by \$10 b. to \$ 274 b. •Gold tumbles to Rs. 12,630 for 10 gm •Sachin Tendulkar becomes the highest Test-run scorer as he passes his target of 15 runs in first innings in the second test against Australia at Mohali. Now it is 11,955, beating Brian Lara's 11,953 •Kerala CM V.S. Achutanandan leads a dhama by ministers, MLAs and MPs from LDF in New Delhi to protest centre's 'negligence' towards the State •India leads at Commonwealth Youth Games at Pune.

18. Gorkhajanamukti Morcha renames signboards of West Bengal Government as those of Gorkhaland Government.

19. MNS attacks north Indian candidates for the Railway Recruitment Board exam in Mumbai •Seven-phase election for J&K announced by EC •Metro bridge in Delhi collapses killing 2, injuring 16 •Night curfew lifted in many areas of Kandhamal •ISRO set for Chandrayaan launch on 22nd •12 CRPF jawans killed in ambush by Maoists in Chhattisgarh.

21. Raj Thackeray of Navnirman Sena

arrested in connection with attacks by his partymen on north Indian candidates at railway board exam (Violence in Mumbai after Thackeray's arrest) •Parliament has met only 32 days so far this year •BJP MP Babubhai Katara expelled from LS •Government says homosexuality is a disease but Delhi High Court doesn't agree.

22. India's Chandrayaan-1, its first moon mission, launched successfully from Sriharikota •Government is likely to infuse Rs.3000 cr. into seven public sector banks •No CBI probe into rape of nun case of Orissa •24 people drowned in Bihar boat capsized. **23.** Raj Thackeray gets interim bail •Government to inject fresh capital in seven public sector banks to help them achieve a capital adequacy ratio of over 12 p.c. **24.** Sensex loses nearly 1100 points, -the steepest fall in Asia. RBI keeps key rates unchanged •Rupee breaches 50. **25.** RBI Governor says India's growth story will continue despite a slight deceleration.

26. Sanyasin Pragya Thakur arrested for alleged role in Malegaon blast case.

27. Rupee is 50.23 for a dollar; Oil falls below \$ 60.

28. Over 100 villages flooded in Asom •Maharashtra orders enquiry into shooting of a young man from Patna in Mumbai •Pragya Singh Thakur to undergo narco tests •Law Commission wants marriage and divorce registration to be a must for all Indians •Indian nation's Sarabjit Singh shifted from death row cell to one for political prisoners in a Lahore jail •A U.P. labourer lynched on a train in Maharashtra by a gang allegedly associated with MNS.

29. Viswanathan Anand retains his world title after drawing the 11th game of world chess championship against Kramnik in Bonn.

30. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrives on 2-day visit •Serial blasts in Assam kill 62, injure 470.

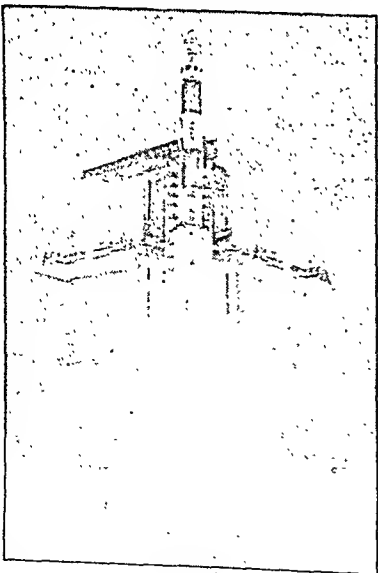
India's Journey to the Moon

India became a full member of an elite club of super space powers on Oct. 22, 2008 when Chandrayaan-1 was put into orbit.

Highlights of Chandrayaan-1

The 49-hour countdown to India's first mission to the moon began 5.22 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 20. Chandrayaan-1 was launched at 6.20 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22. It was one of India's proudest moments. The launch is the first part of an extensive national programme to explore the Moon.

- The Satish Dhawan Space Centre, from where the launch was made at Sriharikota in Nellore district, Andhra



The triumph

Pradesh, is about 80 km. from Chennai. Chandrayaan 1 would remain in the Lunar orbit for two years. It would normally be able to gather all the data in one to one and a half years.

The Concept of Chandrayaan

In 1979, when the then prime minister Morarji Desai was visiting Moscow, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev made an offer. The Soviets would give a seat to an Indian cosmonaut in a space vehicle. The then external affairs minister A.B. Vajpayee thought it was a good idea to accept the offer. The Soviets made the offer again after Indira Gandhi returned to power. The proposal was accepted and "Rakesh Sharma flew in a Soyuz rocket to space."

On August 15, 2003, A.B. Vajpayee had the good fortune to announce from the ramparts of the Red Fort that India would launch its own mission, the unmanned Chandrayaan, to moon. The concept of Chandrayaan had its origins at a half-day seminar organised in 1999 by the then Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Dr. K. Kasturirangan. It was purely an academic exercise, but as the scientists discussed the capabilities that ISRO had achieved, they realised they could now virtually ask for the moon. Kasturirangan then asked Dr. George Joseph to make a techno-scientific study. Joseph's report was discussed at a meeting of the Astronautical Society of India at the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad. Madhavan Nair, who succeeded Kasturirangan, has put the dream into reality.



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Instrument (LLRI). The polar regions will be explored by High Energy X-ray Spectrometer (HEX).

- The Moon Impact Probe (MIP), which has pride of place among the 11 instruments on board Chandrayaan-1, is painted the colours of the Indian flag. It is this instrument that will land on the moon's surface and leave telltale evidence of an Indian instrument having reached the moon.

- The MIP, which weighs 29 kg and sits like a hat on top of Chandrayaan-1, has been built by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

- The MIP will be a technological forerunner to India's Chandrayaan-2 mission which will deploy a lander or a rover on the moon. Russia will build this lander / rover. If it is a rover, it will look like children's toy-car, a few feet long and a few feet broad.

- The Chandrayaan mission will focus on the exploration of the South Pole of the moon besides three-dimensional mapping of the entire moonscape.

- The moon impact probe will hit the

rim of the Shackleton crater of the moon at the South Pole by mid-November, everything goes well. The rim of the Shackleton crater is a location identified by the US space agency NASA to establish a possible lunar outpost by 2020.

- The location is not far from the 5-km high Malapert Mountain on the moon. The Mountain is about 120 km from the pole.

Why do we go to the Moon?

- One of India's aims in going to the moon is the possibility of harvesting helium-3, a key fuel for nuclear fusion. The earth is believed to have only 15 tonnes of helium 3. The moon is thought to contain 3 m. tonnes. If fusion becomes commercially viable one day, supply of helium 3 will be a problem. And the answer may be the moon. According to one view, the moon may have enough helium 3 to produce energy for 8,000 years. The chief of China's Chang'e project observed in 2006 that each year three space shuttle missions could bring

Manned Vs Unmanned Missions

According to scientists, unmanned missions are cheaper and can provide them with more data than manned missions. With all the glamour and adventure associated with them, the multi-billion dollar Apollo missions of the US did not yield much in terms of advancing scientific knowledge of the moon surface. Of the 24 humans who travelled to the moon, 12 landed between 1969 and 1972, but could spend a total of less than two weeks there. As the US National Commission for Space in its 1986 report observed, "the 12 men who trod the lunar surface in the course of six Apollo missions could not venture more than five miles from their

landed spacecraft." It is also believed that the Soviet Union's Lunokhod robotic vehicles collected more data from the lunar surface than did all the manned missions of the US.

Moreover, manned missions also cost a fortune. More money would have to be spent on developing life-support systems in the vehicle than on launch and orbital engineering. The technologies involved in the life-support system are also too fragile. A simple error can cost lives and defeat the whole purpose of the mission, whereas in an unmanned mission, the technologies involved are more robust, and the risks are lower.



G. Madhavan Nair, ISRO Chairman

Indigenous Instruments

• All the Indian instruments on board Chandrayaan-1 have been made for the first time in the country. For every item on the spacecraft, which was built at the ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore, there is a redundant system. If an item didn't work, there is a standby. There are two star-trackers, two gyroscopes, two transmitters and two receivers.

• There are 11 instruments on board Chandrayaan-1, five from India and six from abroad. Of those from abroad, three are from the US and one from Bulgaria.

• The satellite weighing half a tonne is to enter lunar orbit some 100 km. above the moon's surface on Nov. 8.

How the Spacecraft is Propelled

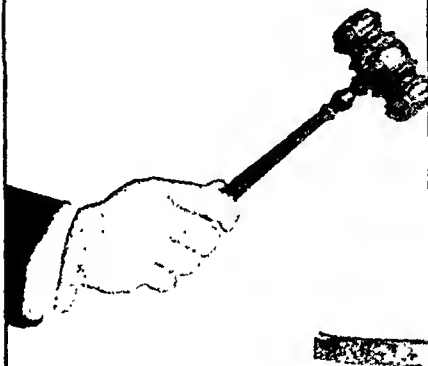
• The manoeuvres for propelling Chandrayaan-1 into the lunar orbit are done in stages. The altitude will be increased precisely from the low, elliptical orbit of the initial stage. The moon is nearly 4 lakh km. away from us. The direction of the craft is found by using star-tracks and gyroscopes. A chain of tracking stations spread all over the globe will find the spacecraft's position in orbit. It is important that Chandrayaan-1 reaches the moon at the precise time.

• The accurate height of moon's hills and mountains and depths of waters will be provided by the Lunar Laser Ranging



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tists have begun studying the matter. A mission to Mars by India seems to be a logical extension of the moon flight. The GSLV rocket could carry a reasonably sized spacecraft to Mars.

Colonising Moon and Mars

- Is it ultimately a question of colonisation of Moon and Mars? Humanity may have to start moving out from Earth. Stephen Hawkins has called for massive investment in establishing colonies on the Moon and Mars.

Miscellaneous

• India is the 7th

India was the seventh country - after the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Japan, China and the United Kingdom - to orbit a satellite by using its own SLV-3 launch vehicle in the summer of 1980. The event crowned the Indian Government's successful 10-year space research programme.

• A GSLV Rocket

A PSLV-C11 rocket carried Chandrayaan-1. Now ISRO is looking at how to design a capsule that could carry two human beings on board a GSLV rocket,

which is much bigger and more powerful rocket than PSLV.

• Remote Sensing Satellites

India has a constellation of six remote sensing satellites, the largest inventory after America's.

• Help from Russia and USA

- There is effective collaboration with Russia and USA, the two leading space powers. Russian help came in the form of advice on launching techniques, supply of up-to-date cryogenic devices, and training of Indian cosmonauts and in manned flights.

- America contributed to the creation of India's satellite system. India's first regular communications satellite was made in the US. The two countries have signed an agreement on a joint lunar expenditure in 2011-12.

- USA has been to the Moon nine times. As many as 27 astronauts have been there between 1968 and 1972.

- Russia has been working on putting their spacemen for longer periods on the orbiting Mir space station and the International Space Station.

The Space Journey : Milestones

1957: Sputnik 1 & 2 (Russia)

1961: Vostok 1, Yuri Gagarin on board

1962: Mariner 2 (America) First Venus fly-by

1965: Venera 3 (Rus.) Landed on Venus

1966: Luna 9&10 craft on the moon

1968: Apollo 8 (Am.) Manned lunar orbiter

1969: Apollo 11 Manned lunar landing.

1971: Mars 2& 3 (Rus.) First Mars lander

1972-73: Pioneer 10&11 (Am.) First mission to fly by Saturn, Mariner 10 Used the gravitational pull of Venus to reach Mercury

1977: Voyager 2 (Am.)

1981: First space shuttle flight (Am.)

1990: Hubble Space Telescope (Am.) Observatory

1995: Solar Observatory, (ESA)

1996: Mars Pathfinder (Am.)

2005: MESSENGER (Am.) Mercury orbiter

2006: Pluto-Kuiper Belt study, Solar orbiter (Am.)

2007: Phoenix (America) Mars polar lander, Selene (Japan) Lunar orbiter, Dawn (America) Asteroids Ceres and Vesta orbiter.

2008: Chandrayaan-1 (India) Unmanned mission to moon

enough for all human beings across the globe.

- The scientific payloads of mission Chandrayaan-1 will help in preparing a three-dimensional atlas of the entire topographic surface of the moon, spot minerals such as thorium, magnesium, aluminium, silicon, Iron and titanium. An important mission is to confirm the reported presence of water in the moon's polar regions.

Chandrayaan- II

- A second unmanned lunar mission from India will be launched in 2011, comprising an orbiting spacecraft, a lander and a moon-rover built with Russian help.

- ISRO is getting ready with Chandrayaan-II, a spacecraft that will soft-land a lander and a rover on the lunar surface. The rover will then collect samples, analyse them and send results.

A Manned Lunar Mission

- India has plans to put the first Indian into space by 2015. The Rs. 12,000 cr. project has been approved by the Space Commission. A manned lunar mission may take place by 2020. This is four years ahead of China's target. China's Change I cost the country nearly double of Chandrayaan 1, the cost of which is \$ 586 m. India is well ahead of Japan and Israel.

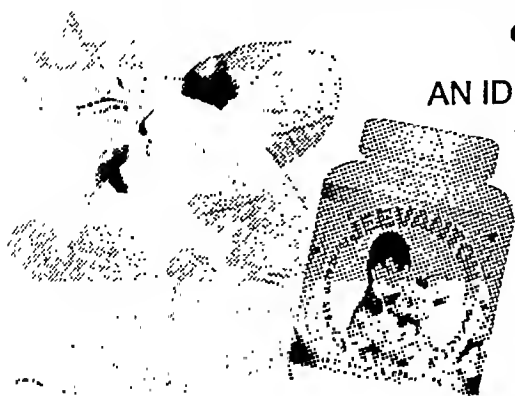
- The objective of the 'manned mission' is to take an Indian astronaut to space and not anywhere near the moon. The rocket will have to be made much more reliable and the spacecraft must be capable of re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, without burning out.

Mars

- Is a Mars flight in ISRO's sights? Mars is our natural next destination. Scien-

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the Trinity College, Cambridge University Professor of Mathematics. Professor Seshu Iyer then directed Ramanujan to communicate this and other results directly to Hardy. Ramanujan's first letter to Prof. Hardy, dated 16th January 1913, contained 'the bare statements of about 120 theorems, mostly formal identities from his Notebooks'. Decades later, the famous writer, C.P. Snow in his Rectorial Address delivered before the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, on April 13, 1962, record's Hardy's reaction to the first letter

paucity of funds (to buy paper / notebooks), Hardy pointed out that he could provide the proofs of any of the 325 Entries in his Notebooks, when asked. It is known that Pythagoras's life did not fit any conventional style and when it was questioned as to what it was that he did, he said, I am simply a lover [philos] of wisdom [sophia]. By Ramanujan's time (1914 - 1919), Philosophy at Cambridge had changed considerably from the love of wisdom. In this context, it is worth noting that



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Science Scan

Indian designs a 'flying saucer'

A scientist of Indian origin from the University of Florida in the US has conceptualised the design for a plasma-propelled flying saucer. Subrata Roy, University of Florida mechanical and aerospace engineering associate professor has submitted a patent application for a circular, spinning aircraft design. He calls his design a "wingless electromagnetic air vehicle," or WEAV. The proposed prototype is small - measure less than 15 cm across - and will be efficient enough to be powered by onboard batteries. The propulsion system for Roy's saucer sprouts from his extensive US air force funded plasma actuator research. According to Roy the design can be scaled up and theoretically should work in a much larger form.

'Himadri,' at the Arctic

India has opened a station in the Arctic. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for year-round scientific work, the station is at Ny-Alesund in Norway, which is the northern-most permanent human settlement, 1,200 km from the North Pole. With Himadri, India has become the 11th country to have established a fullfledged research station here. The others are Britain, Germany, France, Italy, China, Japan, South Korea, The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway. In-

dia began its Arctic research programme in August 2007 with five scientists. The National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, based in Goa manages Himadri and has been 'coordinating India's polar research.

Plastic red blood cells

Red blood cells travel through the bloodstream delivering vital oxygen to body tissues and taking away unwanted carbon dioxide - and they have to squeeze through blood vessels as thin as 3 micrometres across to do it. But in some diseases, such as malaria and sickle cell disease, red blood cells lose this ability to deform.

Now, Joseph DeSimone, a chemical engineer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US, has created tiny sacks of the polymer polyethylene glycol just 8 micrometres across - in the range of human red blood cells - that are capable of deforming in a way that allows them to pass through the tiniest capillaries. Polyethylene glycol is biologically benign.

Nano-Iron

Iron that is made up of nanoscale crystals are far stronger and harder than its traditional counterpart, but the benefits of this "nano-iron" have been limited by

The Intelligent Whales

Whales are intelligent. Many kinds such as dolphins, porpoises and killer whales can be taught to perform complicated tricks.

SCIENCE WORLD

ponent fibres.

The end result is undamaged cellulose fibres suspended in water. When the water is drained away, they found that the fibres join together into networks held by hydrogen bonds, forming flat sheets of "nanopaper."

Toxic toys

A child's prized possession could be a potential source of great risk to them, as a recent study has pointed out that these contained high levels of toxic metals.

Toxics Link, an NGO working for a toxics-free world, recently conducted a research to ascertain the levels of total lead and cadmium in soft plastic toys, under which a total of 111 non-branded toy samples, purchased randomly from the three metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, were analysed.

According to Toxics Link Director Ravi Agarwal, toys made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are potentially toxic to children as PVC contains both lead and cadmium.

Moreover, they are used in pigments to give bright colours to toys in order to attract children. Since metals in materials and paints are loosely bound to the surface, it can leach easily. The chewing, licking and swallowing behaviour of children expose them to lead and cadmium exposure.

Microwave rock drill

Tunnelling through soft ground is relatively easy. Set a drilling machine to work in hard rock such as granite or basalt, the rate of progress drops dramatically because of slow cutting speed and the increased rate at which drill bits wear

out. One way to speed up drilling would be to heat up the rock ahead, causing it to crack. Engineers have attempted to do this using gas jets, lasers and even electric heaters, but with little success.

Jacques Ouelett, a mining engineer at McGill University in Montreal, Canada suggests fitting a drilling head with a low energy microwave generator to heat rock just ahead of the drill bit. This fractures the rock efficiently making it much easier to cut.

Dinosaur Tracks in Arabia

Scientists have found dinosaur tracks on the Arabian Peninsula, a discovery, believed to shed more light on where dinosaurs lived, their migration patterns and how they evolved the way they did.

The discovery of tracks of a large ornithomimid dinosaur and a herd of 11 sauropods walking along a coastal mudflat in Yemen was reported in the journal PLoS ONE. Preserved in rocks at the site are the footprints of 11 small and large sauropods long-necked, herbivorous dinosaurs that lived in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

Want to exist forever?

An Aussie company DNA Solutions, as per a contract with the Australian Defence started taking delivery of DNA samples from more than 70,000 full-time and reserve military personnel. The defence department collected the DNA by taking a drop of blood on a card containing a chemical compound that traps DNA at room temperature. DNA samples collected using a technology devel-

An Animal, Not a Plant

The sea anemone is an animal, not a plant. It belongs to a group of animals called cnidarians, which include jellyfishes and corals.

the fact that its nanocrystalline structure breaks down at relatively modest temperatures. According to Dr. Carl C. Koch, professor at National Carolina State University of materials science engineering who worked on the project, the alloy essentially consists of 1% zirconium and 99% iron. The zirconium allows the alloy to retain its nanocrystalline structure under high temperatures -1,300 degrees Celsius - approaching the melting point of iron.

The new alloy is also economically viable, since "it costs virtually the same amount to produce the alloy" as it does to create nano-iron.

Life Found a Mile Below Sea floor

The Ocean Drilling Program obtained core samples from deep under the ocean, allowing scientists to detect extreme microbes living a kilometre or two below the sea floor. A coring sample off the coast of Newfoundland turned up single-celled microbes living in searing temperatures about 1,626 meters below the sea floor. According to R. John Parkes, Geobiologist, Cardiff University in Wales, "these are probably not only the deepest, but the hottest organisms found in deep marine sediments. It's fascinating to know what proportion of our planet actually has living organisms in it." Parkes and his colleagues analysed core samples returned from the Ocean Drilling Program. They found evidence for prokaryotic cells, which lack a central nucleus, that appear to be from the archaea family, a sister domain to bacteria. The newly-discovered life likely gets its energy from methane. It thrives

in 111 million-year-old rocks, enduring temperatures between 60 to 100 degrees Celsius. There's no light around and there's no oxygen around. In this extreme environment, life is relatively sparse.

T-rays at room temperature

INNOVATIONS IN LASER technology have led a team of Harvard researchers to create the world's first electrically-pumped semiconductor source of coherent Terahertz (THz) radiation at room temperature.

Previously, electrically-pumped, Terahertz semiconductor lasers were impractical to use, due to the significant amounts of cryogenic cooling needed to make them work properly, but the new findings could prove to be a breakthrough in the field of Terahertz (THz) radiation, or T-rays.

Nanopaper

A team at the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology has produced the "nanopaper" from a biological material found in conventional paper - cellulose. This long sugar molecule is a principal component of plant cell walls and is the most common organic compound on Earth.

According to Lars Berglund, "the new paper could be used to reinforce conventional paper, produce extra-strong sticky tape or help create tough synthetic replacements for biological tissues."

The new method involves breaking down wood pulp with enzymes and then fragmenting it using a mechanical beater. The shear forces produced cause the cellulose to disintegrate into its com-

A Plant Like a Pebble

Living stones or lithops, found in hot dry deserts of southern Africa, have thick cuticle which prevent them from drying in the heat. They look like a pebble or a stone, and are therefore hard to see.

Do Indians Have a Scientific Temper?

Roddam Narasimha

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Sciences, Bangalore

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, believed that science was a great force that could transform his country economically, socially and culturally. He established an S&T (science and technology) system that has grown a great deal since his times, but its structure and governing principles have changed little all these years. He was an agnostic pandit who liked "to burn incense at the altar of science", and saw dams and factories as modern temples. In 1958 he had Parliament pass a scientific policy resolution, which said in part that "modern science [is] probably mankind's greatest enterprise today". Science was for him not merely a knowledge system that was necessary for economic development or national security, but a major cultural force that could help remove the blind superstition and the undue respect for ancient authority that he thought of as characterizing the Indian society of his times. He therefore tirelessly promoted what he called the "scientific temper" among his countrymen, and wanted Indians to think scientifically about everything in their life and society.

In the years since Nehru the promotion of scientific temper has passed from the hands of political leaders to those of interested scientists and citizens working through the rationalist movement, as it

has been called. Some of these rationalists have worked very hard, especially to 'debunk' unscientific reports, stories and practices that gain wide currency in the country. Astrology has been a major target; so have the miracles reported by or about various holy men creating material artifacts out of nothing, or about idols that shed tears or drink milk. One of the most respected leaders of the movement was the late Prof H Narasimhaiah, of National College, Bangalore, who throughout his life led a vigorous campaign promoting the values of science. His Gandhian simplicity, ascetic lifestyle and dedication to education gave him unusual influence. But I cannot avoid the feeling that after his passing away the rationalist movement has lost its most passionate advocate, and with him its own momentum.

This development raises some very interesting questions. How is it that an ancient civilization like ours has found this rationalist view rather difficult to accept in spite of advocacy by such highly respected people? Do Indians have a fundamental problem with a scientific and rational attitude to life and society? Is there no precedent in India for a rational attitude? Is it that given the difficult times that Indian society has gone through over recent centuries, an attachment to

The Honeyguides' Ingenuity

The honeyguide, a small bird which feeds upon the honey from bees and wasps nests, is unable to break these nests. The clever bird, on seeing a nest, makes an alarm call, and a honey badger, an animal feeding on honey, comes and breaks open the nest. The honeyguide then has a honey meal.

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology, in its original sense, refers to the projected ability to construct items from the bottom up, using techniques and tools being developed today to make complete, high performance products. Nanotechnology is the engineering of functional systems at the molecular scale.

The Meaning K. Eric Drexler popularised the word 'nanotechnology' in the 1980's, by talking about building machines on the scale of molecules, a few nanometers wide motors, robot arms, and even whole computers, far smaller than a cell.

Much of the work being done today that carries the name 'nanotechnology' is not nanotechnology in the original meaning of the word. Nanotechnology, in its traditional sense, means building things from the bottom up, with atomic precision.

This theoretical capability was envisioned as early as 1959 by the renowned physicist Richard Feynman.

Four Generations

2000 1st. Passive Nanostructures

First generation products: (a) aerosols, colloids (b) coatings, nanoparticles reinforced composites, polymers, ceramics, nanostructured metals, etc.

2005 Active Nanostructures

Second generation products: (a) bio-active like targeted drugs, bio-devices (b) Physico-chemical active - 3D transistors, actuators, etc.

2010 Nano-systems

Third generation products: (a) guided assembling, 3D networking, robotics

2015/20 Molecular Nanosystems
Fourth generation products: molecular devices, atomic design, etc.

oped by the Melbourne-based firm will be used only to positively identify dead troops. This card is capable of storing the sample for at least 100 years. After storing DNA samples for thousands of defence personnel, the Aussie company is now planning to do the same for the general public, with more and more people wishing to exist forever. The DNA business is witnessing a boon, as people would like to place a small part of themselves into storage.

A robot surgeon

NeuroArm, a robot has helped surgeons in Canada to remove a tumour from Paige Nickason, a 21 year-old woman's brain. Doctors controlled the NeuroArm from a computer workstation to guide the two-armed device through Paige's brain during a nine-hour operation. The NeuroArm is more precise and works with a magnetic resonance im-

aging (MRI) scan. It is able to move in far smaller increments than a surgeon's hand. According to Dr. Garnette Sutherland, who led the University of Calgary team that developed the robot, "NeuroArm will improve surgical outcomes as it is less invasive and more delicate in its touch."

World's fastest supercomputer

IBM has developed a one-petaflop supercomputer, 'Roadrunner,' that runs on open-source Linux software from Red Hat. The computer is built for the US Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. It will primarily be used to ensure the safety and reliability of the US' nuclear weapons stockpile and for research into astronomy, energy, human genome science and climate change. It cost about \$100 million, and is twice as fast as the current No.1 IBM Blue Gene system.

what might be considered non-scientific has become necessary or even desirable for survival?

Before we go further however I think one point must be understood. Non-rationalist practices are by no means limited to India. Astrology, for example, has a wide following in many parts of the world, including the US and China. Time and again scientists in the west - including some of the most distinguished among them - have issued public statements decrying reliance on astrology. Still most American newspapers find it essential to carry an astrological column, exactly like Indian newspapers. It is similar with creationism, and the many other movements in the west that are not accepted by scientists. So the problem is not as simple as it seems at first, even if we think that the scientific temper in India is weaker than in many other cultures.

I want however to argue that there is another kind of reason why the scientific temper still remains without a large following in India. This is that the rationalist movement is generally seen as inspired by western science, and often as anti-religious. Of course much of the science we study in our schools and pursue in our laboratories in India today had its apparent origins in the west. So the rationalist view as presented is seen by many as culturally western, alien to our tradition. Indeed some would see it as intended to devalue what they consider to be the virtues of Indian civilization, if not in fact to continue the dominationism associated with the European presence in Asia beginning in the 18th century. I think this is not ununderstandable. A civilization

that has survived many ups and downs for thousands of years, preserving a continuity that was never completely broken but with an adaptability and resilience that has welcomed new ideas, is unlikely to abandon easily some of its cherished values because of the progress of a certain kind of knowledge system during the last few centuries in an alien civilization. Mahatma Gandhi expressed this view very well in his oft-quoted thought that he wanted the windows of his house to be kept open so that fresh breezes blow from everywhere, but that he did not want to be blown off his feet.

However, even a cursory examination of classical Indian philosophy and scientific thinking shows that a strong rationalist streak has been present for almost as many millennia as our civilization has flourished. When we look at the history of Buddhism and Jainism for example, and Sikhism in the north, Veerasaivism in the south and other similar radical movements in more recent centuries, we see that what got to be called 'protestantism' in Europe is almost a permanent feature of the Indian scene. At any given point of time our culture tends to harbour both orthodox and protestant views. How extraordinary therefore that the argument for rationalism in India rarely appears with Indian thought as a source of inspiration! Let me give some instances where such thoughts expressed by respected Indian figures are not only striking, but in fact may have gone beyond what has been considered rational in the west.

Even preceding Buddhism was the Saamkhya school of philosophy (dharma), already mentioned in the

Gorillas are Vegetarians

Gorillas eat mainly twigs and leaves. Their canine teeth, which look feared for threat displays. Believe it, gorillas are shy, retiring creatures.

Atomic Energy : Nuclear Power and Related Technologies

Dr. K. S. Parthasarathy

Former Secretary, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

Nuclear power programme

Indian nuclear power programme began when US General Electric constructed two Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) of 2 X 190 MWe capacity (later de-rated to 2 X 160 MWe) at Tarapur (Table 1) at a cost of Rs 480 million as a turn-key project. The reactors which went into commercial operation in 1969 established the techno-economic feasibility of nuclear power plants in India and served to jumpstart training of Indian scientists and engineers.

As early as 1954, Dr. Homi Bhabha chose a three stage nuclear power programme for India as it has very modest uranium and vast thorium resources. Its long term goal is to develop reaction on thorium cycle.

The first stage consists of setting up three Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and associated fuel cycle activities to

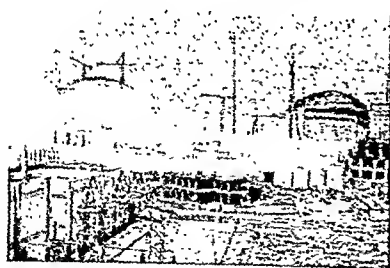
produce plutonium. The choice of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) for the first stage of the programme is ideal as it helps to use our limited natural uranium resources optimally.

PHWRs are the most efficient of all reactors using uranium. As these reactors operate, significant quantities of U-238 will be converted into Plutonium-239. PHWR offers higher yield of plutonium, a resource needed for the second stage of the programme. The use of natural uranium widens the source of supply and makes fuel fabrication easier. Lastly, Indian industry has the capacity to make various components needed for PHWRs.

The second stage envisages construction and operation of fast breeder reactors (with plutonium and thorium) backed by reprocessing plants and plutonium-based fuel fabrication facilities. The blanket around the nuclear core will have uranium as well as thorium. These produce more fuel (plutonium-239 and uranium-233) than they burn, enabling capacity addition without needing further fuel.

The third stage will use thorium-uranium-233 fuel cycle in which the indigenously abundant thorium will be used on a very large scale.

Thus, India's nuclear power programme envisages extraction of all the



Dancing Their Way to Food

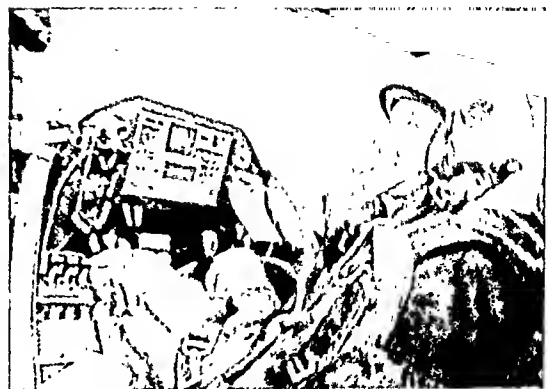
Dance is the language of the bees. It gives other bees information about the location of plants on which the worker bees had found food. Bees can feed off flowers upto 3 km. from the hive.

ence of view between Aryabhata (5th c. AD) and Brahmagupta (7th c. AD) about the cause of eclipses. Aryabhata is clear that eclipses are a matter of shadows, whereas Brahmagupta upholds the puranic rahu-ketu theory, and in fact is scathingly critical of Aryabhata (who is dismissed as ignorant of mathematics).

These controversies have persisted to the present day. Attempts to resolve them have varied from the view that the puranas were for salvation and the sidhantas were for worldly affairs (vyavahara), so their domains were different; that the sidhantic view that the earth was round (for example) was not really in conflict with the puranic, whose view that it was flat must be seen as describing a locally flat picture; that sidhantic calculations are not proofs; and so on.

Aryabhata's own attitude towards God was beautifully summarized in a little verse where he says he had destroyed precious gems of knowledge from the ocean of real and unreal, setting a lamp of his own mind, which was the gift of God. Neelakantha, the great Kerala astronomer-mathematician (16th c. AD), said that his work was called a yukti (effort, reasoning), not a shastra (scripture).

Finally let me also say that the representation of modern science, based on Bacon's idea of induction, has been often the dominant force when we consider the rise, development and decline of Neelakantha.



place of rationalism in Indian thinking. Indian civilization has survived by a combination of change and continuity, with an overwhelming respect for a certain kind of pluralism. The other side of the pluralist coin is that beliefs considered irrational are criticized but allowed to survive, perhaps on the ground that they were some essential values that are too intangible to be dismissed from a scientific viewpoint.

I would be troubled by the thought that rationalism in India, in which we cannot say it is weak, is more likely to persist when its principles are not in any danger of being overthrown by any new ideas. It is a sad state of affairs that a rationalist movement has not been able to emerge in India, and that the only rationalist movement that has emerged is a movement that is based on a rationalist philosophy.

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Kaiga and Tarapur with a total installed capacity of 3700MWe (Table1)

Of these, each of the two reactors at Tarapur (TAPP-3 & 4) of 540 MWe capacity represents the largest capacity single electricity generating unit in the country.

The average capacity factor (The capacity factor of a power plant is the ratio of the actual output of a power plant over a period of time and its output if it had operated at full power for the entire time) of Indian PHWRs stabilised to about 60 % in mid 90s and steadily increased to nearly 90% during 2003.

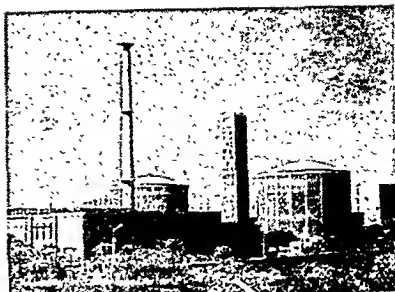
International benchmarks

India has achieved many international benchmarks. In 2002, the average capacity factor of Indian PHWRs was more than that for all reactors in USA. At the end of September 2002, The Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)- which recorded a capacity factor of 98.4% during the preceding 12 months became the best performing PHWR among the 32 such reactors worldwide

Unit 1 of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS-1) and unit-4 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-4) and unit-2 of the Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-2) operated non-stop for 372, 373 and 529 days respectively.

Presently, the gestation period for new PHWRs is five years and NPCIL plans to reduce it to four and a half years. This will reduce the cost of nuclear power stations.

TAPS-1 & 2 and KGS 1 & 2 won the gold shield instituted by the Ministry of



Power for meritorious performance for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

During 2006-07, TAPS -1 & 2, the oldest power station recorded the highest power generation since the station began its commercial operation.

Neither technology nor industrial infrastructure limits the way forward to construct and operate more PHWRs. It depends only on funds.

Indian reactors are operating at low capacity factors now because of mismatch between fuel supply and demand. This status may be temporary. Though on an all India basis, the nuclear power contributes only less than 3%, in Rajasthan, the share of nuclear power is 16%. For Karnataka it is 11%.

Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) operating at Kalpakkam and the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 500MWe being constructed there represent the beginning of the second stage in which India may install plutonium-fuelled breeder reactors of about 300,000MWe for 30y. The second stage is on course.

During the third stage India will construct thorium-uranium-233 fuelled breeders of about 500,000 MWe operat-

The First Animals to Fly

A sheep, a rooster and a duck were the first living creatures to be transported by air. They were sent by the Montgolfier brothers in 1783 before their historic manned hot-air balloon flight to see if the creatures would be harmed by the rarefied air.

Table 1 Nuclear Power Reactors In Operation

Unit	Location	Type	Capacity (MWe)	Date of Commercial Operation
1. TAPS-1	Tarapur, Maharashtra	BWR	160	28-Oct-1969
2. TAPS-2	Tarapur, Maharashtra	BWR	160	28-Oct-1969
3. RAPS-1*	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	100	16-Dec-1973
4. RAPS-2	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	200	01-Apr-1981
5. MAPS-1	Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu	PHWR	220	27-Jan-1984
6. MAPS-2	Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu	PHWR	220	21-Mar-1986
7. NAPS-1	Narora, Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220	01-Jan-1991
8. NAPS-2	Narora, Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220	01-Jul-1992
9. KAPS-1	Kakrapar, Gujarat	PHWR	220	06-May-1993
10. KAPS-2	Kakrapar, Gujarat	PHWR	220	01-Sep-1995
11. KAIGA-1	Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220	16-Nov-2000
12. KAIGA-2	Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220	16-Mar-2000
13. RAPS-3	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	220	01-Jun-2000
14. RAPS-4	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	220	23-Dec-2000
15. TAPS-4	Tarapur, Maharashtra	PHWR	540	12-Sept-2005
16. TAPS-3	Tarapur, Maharashtra	PHWR	540	18-Aug-2006
17. KAIGA-3	Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220	06-May-2007
		Total	4,120	

*The Unit 1 (RAPS-1) of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station is in shut down state

energy content from the existing resources through the three stage programme. India does not dispose of spent fuel as waste as it contains plutonium-239, a valuable fissile material. USA, Canada and Sweden do not reprocess; they dispose of spent fuel as waste, as they have or are free to import relatively cheap uranium. India cannot import uranium and has to content itself with its own uranium resources (unfortunately of very low grade) as it has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

As the three stage programme progresses in sequence, sufficient inventories of plutonium accumulated in the

first stage will feed the second stage; the uranium-233 produced in the second stage will be the feed material for the third stage. Thorium cycle has some growth constraints as the three stages have to be implemented sequentially

Current status

The first stage of using natural uranium in pressurized heavy water reactors have already progressed into a large scale industrial activity. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) operates 14 pressurized heavy water reactors at Kota, Kalpakkam, Narora, Kakrapar,

How Many Insects?

Over a million species of insects have been identified and named. According to scientists, there could be as many as two or three other million species not yet discovered.

Table 2. NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS

Project	Capacity (MWe)	Expected Commercial Operation
Kaiga - 4	1 X 220 U4	Sept. '08 (Subject to Availability of the Fuel)
KK - 1 & 2	2 X 1000 U1	June '09
	U 2	Mar. '10
RAPP - 5 & 6	2 X 220 U5	July '08
	U6	Mar. '09 (Subject to Availability of the Fuel)
Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor	1X 500	Sept. 2010

of the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) of 300 MWe capacity will start. Besides this, India has future plans to construct 4X500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactors, 8X700 MWe PHWRs and 6X 1000MWe Light Water Reactors

Uranium mining

India is one among the handful of countries which mastered the entire nuclear fuel cycle. The uranium ore mined in India has a low grade of less than 0.1%. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) continues uranium exploration in virtually hundreds of locations in several states and drilling and geochemical surveys extensively at many sites including Lostoin, Wahkyn, West Khasi Hills Meghalaya, Chitrial, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh, and Rohil in Sikar District Rajasthan, Deshnur in Belgaum District, Karnataka.

The agency leaves no stones unturned to locate more uranium resources across different regions in the country. In 2007-08, the uranium resources have been updated to 1,07,268 tonnes of U3O8. The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd (UCIL) which DAE set up in 1967, operates four mines (Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar

and Turamdih) and plans to start a few more as early as possible.

UCIL continues to record improved capacity utilization. Narwapahar mine and Jaduguda Plant maintained their excellent performance; the quantity of uranium ore they produced and processed respectively exceeded their production capacities.

Nuclear Fuel Fabrication

While India imported half the requirement of fuel for the Cirus reactor from Canada, Indian scientists and technologists fabricated the rest of the uranium fuel rods at the Uranium Metal Plant (UMP) at Trombay. UMP manufactured uranium fuel rods for the research reactors CIRUS, Zerlina and Dhruva and also supplied half of the fuel needed for the Unit 1 of the Rajasthan Power Project (RAPP-1).

The Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) set up in 1971 as a major industrial unit of DAE, supplies nuclear fuel bundles and reactor core components to all the Indian nuclear power reactors. It manufactures natural and enriched uranium fuel, zirconium alloy cladding and reactor core components under one roof starting from

Frogs Can Kill Us

Some of the brightly coloured frogs of Central and South America produce a highly poisonous venom. This poison is extracted by natives in the rainforests to coat the tips of their darts. The skin of the one-inch-long frog kokoi in Columbia can provide sufficient poison to kill 50 men.

for 500 Y. We have some experience
er the entire thorium fuel cycle includ-
uranium-233 fuel fabrication.

World Nuclear Association estimates
t India has 470,000 tonnes of reason-
y assured resources of thorium. When
y exploited, India's thorium resources
be equivalent to more than 700 bil-
tons of coal.

Self Reliance

Canada constructed Unit-1 of the Ra-
han Power Station (RAPS-1), the first
WR in India. The indigenous parts in
PS-1 were about 55%; for RAPS-2,
lian industry made major items such as
d shields, calandria, steam generators
c. The indigenous content of RAPS-2
reased to 75%.

India continued to design, construct,
mission and operate several reac-
s subsequently, as Canada walked off
en India conducted the Peaceful Nu-
ar Experiment at Pokhran in 1974. The
ess for self reliance from the very start
the programme helped India, when
got isolated from the world nuclear
community.

We will realize the true potential of
dia's indigenous capability only when
starts implementing the third stage
volving the exploitation of its abundant
thorium resources. With fast depleting
ossil fuels and spiralling cost of oil and
s, thorium based nuclear industry
ll invariably provide adequate energy
curity

Cost of nuclear power

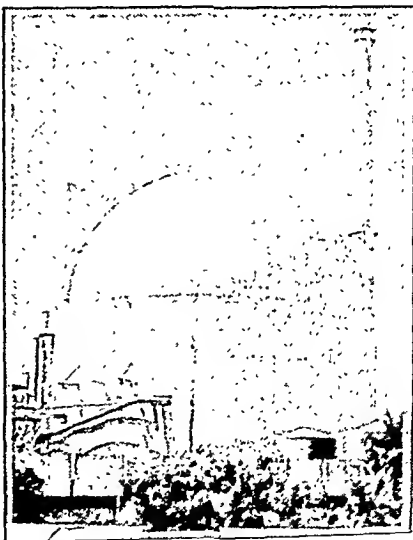
Power from Units 1 & 2 of the Tara-

pur Atomic Power Station is the cheapest
non hydro power in the country at Paisa
93 per unit. Power from other nuclear
reactors costs between Rs 1.81 to Rs 2.79
per unit. These rates are not high, as,
fifteen out of the 49 Indian generating
stations sell power at higher cost, varying
between Rs 3.07 to Rs 7.94.

Nuclear power projects

NPCIL is pursuing four nuclear power
projects; three pressurized heavy water
reactors of 220 MWe capacity (Kaiga-4
and RAPP-5&6) and two water moder-
ated water cooled (VVER) Russian reactors
of 1000 MWe each at Kudankulam (Table
2) and a Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor
of 500 MWe at Kalpakkam. These projects
are progressing well.

In the immediate future, construction



The Jet Engine

The first jet engine to be given a test run was the centrifugal-compressor engine
veloped by Hans Ohair of Germany in 1937. Sir Frank Whittle's centrifugal e-
followed. The Whittle type of engine was popular in the postwar years.

tion embraces every aspect of human endeavour.

The Board of Research in Isotope Technology (BRIT), an industrial unit under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) supplies high quality radioisotope and allied products and radiation technology equipment for use in health care, industry, agriculture and research. BRIT gets radioisotopes from the research reactors Apsara, Cirus and Dhruva at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). In 2007-08, BRIT supplied over 51,000 consignments of various isotope products and processing services nationally. Its sales turnover was Rs 442.2 million in 2007-08.

Medical Applications

Currently, cancer hospitals diagnose about 800,000 new cancer cases annually. About two thirds of them need some form of radiation therapy. Using the technology developed by BARC, a private company fabricates cobalt-60 teletherapy unit appropriately named Bhabhatron; it is cheaper than the corresponding imported equipment. India supplied Bhabhatron II, an advanced unit to Vietnam under an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

BRIT supplies 10 to 15 high Intensity cobalt-60 sources to cancer hospitals annually for use in cobalt-60 teletherapy units which are the highly reliable work-horses to treat many forms of cancer in hundreds of thousands of patients

nationwide.

Manual after-loading system fabricated by BRIT uses indigenously prepared caesium-137 tubes to treat uterus cancer. Radiation oncologists use Iridium-192 in the form of wires to treat breast cancer. Immuno deficient or Immuno-compromised patients cannot be given normal blood transfusion. They may suffer a serious condition called post-transfusion graft-versus-host disease. The only way to avoid this condition is by eliminating the T-lymphocytes from the donor's blood by exposing the blood to low dose of

radiation before transfusion. BRIT has developed blood irradiators for this purpose and supplied 11 of them to various hospitals. BRIT's irradiator at about Rs 30 lakhs, cost about two times less than the imported units.

BRIT regularly supplies technitium-99m, a radioisotope useful in

over 80 % of diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures. Its popularity increased as it became available in portable generators. The Regional Centres for Radiopharmaceuticals (RCR) at Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, and Dibrugarh extend life saving nuclear medicine services to thousands of patients; the RCR at Dibrugarh serve more than ten thousand patients.

Diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals help to study static and dynamic functioning of various organs in the body. Specialists can image the organ by detecting the gamma radiation emitted from the



The Parachute

The first true parachute jump was made from a balloon in 1797, when Andre-Jacques Garnerin safely descended 680 m. beneath an enormous umbrella-shaped canopy.

the raw materials.

Besides meeting domestic requirements of nuclear fuels and zirconium alloy and stainless steel core components, NFC has the potential to emerge as a competitive global supplier of these technologies.

Heavy water production

Heavy water production in India is a notable success story. India mastered this strategically important technology and produces sufficient heavy water for use in its pressurised heavy water reactors and research reactors. Heavy Water Board (HWP), a unit of DAE fulfilled Bhabha's dream, when it exported 100 tonnes of heavy water to South Korea in 1998. HWP exported heavy water to South Korea six more times, thrice to USA and once to China. Total export amounted to 205 tons.

Nangal plant, the first heavy water plant in India started production from

August 9, 1962. DAE located the unit at Nangal because of the availability of cheap electric power (1.35 paise per kilowatt-hr, revised later to 6 paise per kilowatt-hr!) from the Bhakra-Nangal Hydel Project. It was the largest heavy water plant of this type in the world. HWP constructed eight heavy water plants. Six (Kota, Baroda, Hazira, Thal, Manuguru, Tuticorin) of them produce heavy water now.

Conclusion

Indian scientists and engineers have developed self reliant nuclear power and related technologies. India is one among the handful of countries which mastered the entire nuclear fuel cycle technology. While the three stage, long term nuclear power programme is on course, India has achieved international benchmarks in the construction and operation of pressurised heavy water reactors.

Atomic Energy: Radiation Technology Applications

Most uses of radiation and radioisotopes emerge as spin off from the field of atomic energy. Many of these are unique. A few of them are indispensable. Medically needed radiation procedures save lives. Radioisotope techniques help to improve crops assure quality of industrial products and are irreplaceable

in fields such as oil prospecting and hydrology.

From ensuring proper mix of chocolates and other ingredients in confectionery industry, to measuring the flow rates of the Ganges, from helping heart to keep pace to the generation of power for industries, taming of nuclear radia-

The Flight of Flyer 1

The first powered aircraft to take to the air was Flyer I, built by Orville and Wilbur Wright. It made its first flight at Kitty Hawk (US) on Dec. 17, 1903. The flight lasted less than a minute.

Irradiation and Food

More than 50 countries have approved irradiated food products, more than 60 of them. WHO, FAO and Codex Alimentarius Commission endorse safety of irradiated food.

If kept in air-tight bags, irradiation helps prevent sprouting, food-borne diseases, and spoilage caused by organisms and extends shelf life.

gamma radiography is mandatory in the case of pressure vessels, boilers, aircraft engines, space vehicles, bridges, off shore rigs and other industrial components. BARC developed the technology during the 60's and offered this inestimable service to Indian industry. Technologists use gamma radiography to test steel up to a thickness of 20 cm. The process is essentially like taking the x-ray image of the sample under test

BRIT continues to provide radiography-related services. During 2007-08, BRIT sold 56 radiography cameras and provided 861 replacement sources to the industry. BRIT serviced 470 cameras (140 imported) and removed 845 decayed sources for safe disposal

Another priceless service offered by BRIT is the on-line-assessment of internal conditions of industrial columns by gamma scanning. This assists to remove bottlenecks of processes, identifies presence or absence of trays and other internal parts. Gamma scanning of a typical small column leads to the saving of Rs 6 crores. The programme reduces shut down time and pinpoints the problem area.

BRIT has been carrying out leak detection in underground pipelines; a typical saving is about Rs 18 crores for a 50 km long petroleum product pipeline. The

saving using radiation studies to estimate dead volume in chemical reactors of large diameter is about Rs105 crores.

Radiation Processing

Since January 1, 1974 gamma sterilization of medical products started with the setting up of ISOMED at Trombay. Radiation sterilization ensures that disposable syringes, catheter and other medical devices are absolutely safe. ISOMED processed over 8200 cubic metre medical products during 2007-08.

The International Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai in a study found that the infant mortality rates in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh fell by 25 to 30 % as a result of distribution of "Dai kits" which consist of basic radiation sterilized items required for delivery in rural homes.

Radiation sterilization is a simple process and is carried out at ambient temperature; it is highly reliable. It does not leave any residue. Sterilization is possible in packaged form.

BARC successfully demonstrated the radiation treatment of sewage removed 99.99% disease causing bacteria. Drying the irradiated sludge on sand beds yielded pathogen free dried sludge. BARC operates the Sludge Hygienization Research Irradiator (SHRI) at Baroda in collaboration with the Gujarat Government and Baroda Municipality.

BARC supplied 600 tons of irradiated sludge as enriched manure for field applications.

Radiation Processing of Foods

Post-harvest losses of food-grains in India are as high as 20 to 50%. Radiation processing of food eliminates insect infestation in food grains, reduces microbial contamination in other foods and inhibits sprouting of onion and potatoes and delays ripening of fruits such as

radiopharmaceutical accumulated in the organ.

The radiopharmaceuticals from BRIT help to visualize the patterns of blood flow to the heart walls (myocardial perfusion scan), to evaluate the presence and extent coronary artery disease, to determine the extent of injury to the heart following a heart attack (myocardial infarction), and to evaluate the results of bypass surgery or other procedures designed to restore blood supply to the heart.

Specialists use certain nuclear medicine procedures to evaluate brain abnormalities (tumors, memory disorders and seizures) and other central nervous system disorders and to map normal human brain.

During 2007-08, hospitals bought from BRIT 14,000 consignments of ready-to-use radiopharmaceuticals of iodine-131, phosphorous-32, chromium-51 and samarium-153. Radioimmunoassay (RIA) is a sensitive radio-analytical technique to measure hormones, steroids, vitamins, drugs, tumour markers and viral antigens. It is a very useful "test-tube" technique and does not involve administration of radioisotopes to the patient.

Over 300 immunoassay laboratories nation-wide received from BRIT, 9688 kits for radioimmunoassay and immuno-radiometric assay during the last year. RIA is a very useful tool for diagnosing thyroid disorders. Estimation of fertility related hormones by radioimmunoassay is useful to detect pregnancy, to monitor the progress, to establish the gestational age

and to manage complicated pregnancies properly.

Agricultural Applications

For the past fifty years, radiation technology has been helping farmers to improve the quality and quantity of crops such as groundnut, black-gram etc. by mutation breeding. Mutation breeding consists of choosing plants with desirable qualities and breeding them separately. Mutations do occur in plants naturally. Irradiation speeds it up helping to enhance the range of variability of plants. BARC developed and released for commercial cultivation 35 mutant crops of ground nut, mung-bean, black-gram, pigeon pea, mustard, jute, rice and soya-bean.

A dosa or Idli from any where in Maharashtra will mostly contain urid dal produced by mutation breeding developed in BARC. Anywhere else in India, the chance of eating dosa containing BARC- technology supported urid dal is nearly 50%. Trombay Akola Urid (TAU-1) dal occupies 95% of the area under black-gram cultivation in Maharashtra.

The average yield of Trombay Ground-nut (TG-26) was high as 2,500 kg per ha; under improved agronomical practices yield achieved was as high as 10,000 kg ha.

The mutant plants have notable qualities such as large seeds or less branches or earlier maturity or resistance to plant diseases or greater yield or a combination of these.

Industrial Applications

Non destructive testing by industrial

The Huge, Huge Stars

If one could make a phone call from one side of Antares, a star of 420 m.km.diameter, to the other, his voice would take more than half an hour to travel around the star.

Managing Wastes

Safely disposing normal solid or semi-solid materials, resulting from human and animal activities, that are useless, unwanted, or hazardous is a big problem today. Solid wastes typically may be classified as follows:

Garbage: decomposable wastes from food

Rubbish: nondecomposable wastes, either combustible (such as paper, wood, and cloth) or noncombustible (such as metal, glass, and ceramics).

Ashes: residues of the combustion of solid fuels.

Large wastes: demolition and construction debris and trees.

Dead animals

Sewage-treatment solids: material retained on sewage-treatment screens, settled solids, and biomass sludge.

Industrial wastes: such materials as chemicals, paints, and sand.

Mining wastes: slag heaps and coal refuse piles.

Agricultural wastes: farm animal manure and crop residues.

eWastes: computer, its parts and chemicals.

Hazardous Wastes:

Hazardous wastes have been defined as wastes that pose a potential hazard to humans or other living organisms for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Such wastes are nondegradable or

persistent in nature;

(2) their effects can be magnified by organisms in the environment;

(3) they can be lethal; or

(4) they may cause detrimental cumulative effects. General categories of hazardous wastes include toxic chemicals and flammable, radioactive, or biological substances. These wastes can be in the form of sludge, liquid, gas, and solid.

Radioactive substances are hazardous because prolonged exposure to ionizing radiation often results in damage to living organisms, and the substances may persist over long periods of time. Management of radioactive and other hazardous wastes is subject to federal and state regulation, but no method has yet proven satisfactory for disposing of radioactive wastes.

Disposal Methods

Disposal of solid wastes on land is by far the most common method and probably accounts for more than 90% of the nation's municipal refuse. Incineration accounts for most of the remainder, whereas composting of solid wastes accounts for only an insignificant amount. Selecting a disposal method depends almost entirely on costs, which in turn are likely to reflect local circumstances.

(a) **Landfill:** Sanitary landfill is the cheapest satisfactory means of disposal,

An Explosion Heard 4700 km. Away

The explosions in Indonesia were heard 4700 km. away, when the volcanic island of Krakatoa blew itself up on Aug. 27, 1883. Window frames rattled in Singapore, 800 km. away.

various other gases and inert ash, depending on the organic characteristics of the material being pyrolysed.

Recycling: The practice of recycling solid waste is an ancient one. Metal implements were melted down and recast in prehistoric times. Today, recyclable materials are recovered from municipal refuse by a number of methods, including shredding, magnetic separation of metals, air classification that separates light and heavy fractions, screening, and washing. Another method of recovery is the wet pulping process: Incoming

refuse is mixed with water and ground into a slurry in the wet pulper, which resembles a large kitchen disposal unit.

Large pieces of metal and other non-pulpable materials are pulled out by a magnetic device before the slurry from the pulper is loaded into a centrifuge called a liquid cyclone. Here the heavier noncombustibles, such as glass, metals, and ceramics, are separated out and sent on to a glass- and metal-recovery system; other, lighter materials go to a paper-fibre-recovery system.

The final residue is either incinerated or used as landfill. Increasingly, municipalities and private refuse-collection organisations are requiring those who generate solid waste to keep bottles, cans, newspapers, cardboard, and other recyclable items separate from other waste.

Food and Nutrition

Food is the chief of essential materials which the body needs for its well-being. These essential materials are called 'nutrients'. Good food is indispensable for health at all stages of life and for satisfactory growth during infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Wholesome food in adequate quantities is the key to good health.

Balanced diet In order to obtain adequate amounts of each of the different nutrients, the daily diet should include appropriate quantities of a variety of different foodstuff.

Eating habits have changed with the

times. Human diet is not restricted to any special category of food. Variety is, for him, the spice of life, more so in foods than in anything else. This natural desire for variety is justified by the fact that no single food provides us with all the nutrients that we need.

Cereals, like rice or wheat which form the staple food of mankind, supply us only with a fraction of our nutritional requirements. A balanced diet simply means a diet that will supply all the nutrients necessary for the growth and development of the body. In India, a balanced diet has become an imperative since most

Poison Gases in Wars

Poison gases were used in World War I. No chemical weapons were used in World War II. In the Vietnam War, substances which destroyed crops and trees that could hide troops were used.

only if suitable land is within economic range of the source of the wastes; ically, collection and transportation count for 75% of the total cost of solid waste management. In a modern landfill, refuse is spread in thin layers, each of which is compacted by a bulldozer before the next is spread. When about 3 mt of refuse has been laid down, it is covered by a thin layer of clean earth, which also is compacted. Pollution of surface and groundwater is minimised by lining and contouring the fill, compacting and planting the cover, selecting proper soil, diverting upland drainage, and placing wastes in sites not subject to flooding or high groundwater levels.

Gases are generated in landfills through anaerobic decomposition of organic solid waste. If a significant amount of methane is present, it may be explosive; proper venting eliminates this problem.

(b) Incinerators: In incinerators of conventional design, refuse is burned on moving grates in refractory-lined chambers; combustible gases and the solids they carry are burned in secondary chambers. Combustion is 85 to 90% complete for the combustible materials. In addition to heat, the products of incineration include the normal primary products of combustion—carbon dioxide and water—as well as oxides of sulfur and nitrogen and other gaseous pollutants; nongaseous products are fly ash and unburned solid residue. Emissions of fly ash and other particles are often controlled by wet scrubbers, electrostatic precipitators, and bag filters.

(c) Composting: Composting opera-

tions of solid wastes include preparing refuse and degrading organic matter by aerobic microorganisms. Refuse is presorted, to remove materials that might have salvage value or cannot be composted, and is ground up to improve the efficiency of the decomposition process. The refuse is placed in long piles on the ground or deposited in mechanical systems, where it is degraded biologically to a humus with a total nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium content of 1 to 3%, depending on the material being composted. After about three weeks, the product is ready for curing, blending with additives, bagging, and marketing.

Resource Recovery

Numerous thermal processes, now in various stages of development, recover energy in one form or another from solid waste. These systems fall into two groups: combustion processes and pyrolysis processes. A number of companies burn in-plant wastes in conventional incinerators to produce steam. A few municipalities produce steam in incinerators in which the walls of the combustion chamber are lined with boiler tubes; the water circulated through the tubes absorbs heat generated in the combustion chamber and produces steam.

Pyrolysis, also called destructive distillation, is the process of chemically decomposing solid wastes by heat in an oxygen-reduced

atmosphere. This results in a gas stream containing primarily hydrogen, methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and

Splitting Magnet

Since every magnet has two poles, we cannot split a magnet in two. When a magnet is cut in half, we don't get two separate halves of the magnet, but two new smaller magnets.

Vitamins and minerals comprise micro nutrients as distinguished from proteins, fats and carbohydrates—called macro nutrients. The vitamins are necessary auxiliaries in metabolism. They combine with specific proteins, parts of the various oxidative enzyme systems which are concerned with the breakdown of carbohydrates, proteins and fat in the body. Thus, they are intimately involved in the mechanism which releases energy, carbon dioxide and water as the end products of metabolism.

A large number of minerals are present in the body and perform a variety of functions. Minerals account for about 4 % of the body weight. Calcium and phosphorus form about three-fourths of the mineral elements. Five other minerals—potassium, sulphur, sodium, chlorine and magnesium—account for most of the rest. Many elements are present in such minute quantities that they are called trace elements or micro-nutrients.

Water is a vital constituent of diet. An average man contains about 45 litres of water (70% of the body weight). The cells contain 30 litres. Three litres are in the plasma of the blood, where the suspended

cells make a total volume of blood up to 5 litres. The remaining 12 litres (45–33) fill the space between groups of cells. This tissue fluid bathes all the cells of the body. Water is absolutely necessary

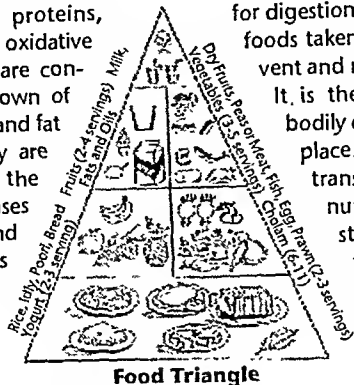
for digestion and absorption of the foods taken in. It is the great solvent and neutraliser in the body.

It is the substance in which bodily chemical reactions take place. Water is the carrier or transporting medium for all nutrients and body substances. It regulates body temperature, keeps skin fresh, and acts as great purifying agent in the body that removes waste materials in the form of tear,

perspiration, urine and faeces. Watery substances act as lubricants in the body, especially in the joints. It is a part of all body tissues and fluids.

Acidosis, alkalosis and dehydration, oedema, fever, shock, uraemia and constipation are some of the clinical signs of inadequate salt and water in the body.

The body obtains water mainly from the fluids we drink, from the solids we eat and also from the oxidation of energy foods. Fats and carbohydrates are oxidised in the body to carbon dioxide and water.



Biofuel threat

Biofuels are diverting grain and oilseed crops from dinner plates to fuel tanks and is jacking up world food prices and endangering the hungry. The grain it takes to fill an SUV tank with ethanol could feed a person for a year. Harvests are being plucked to fuel our cars instead of ourselves. According to the U.N.'s World Food Program, it needs \$500 million as additional funding and supplies, calling the rising costs for food nothing less than a global emergency. Soaring corn prices have sparked tortilla riots in Mexico City, and skyrocketing flour prices have destabilised Pakistan, which wasn't exactly tranquil when flour was affordable.

Antioxidants for Health

Research has now proved that oxidation in the body cells (the process by which we are continuously burning our calories to get energy) releases dangerous, very active molecules known as free radicals. These free radicals attack neighbouring cells (the cell walls, and genetic material-DNA, within the cells) and over a time period, can cause irreversible damage like mutation and cause diseases like cancer.

Generally it manifests old age symptoms like lack of energy, poor memory, loss of hearing and falling hair, which are definitely associated with damaged or weak cells. Free radicals, in alcoholic, cause alcohol-induced liver damage, perhaps more than alcohol itself. Free radicals in cigarette smoke have been implicated in inactivation of alpha-1 antitrypsin in the lung, which promotes the development of emphysema and it is now proved that these free radicals are the main culprit.

While nature has created this problem, it has provided the solution as well. The presence of compounds, called Antioxidants, in the system can "mop up" free radicals before they damage other essential molecules. An antioxidant is a chemical that prevents the oxidation of other chemicals. Consuming more antioxidants helps

provide the body with tools to neutralise harmful free radicals. It's estimated that there are more than 4,000 compounds in foods that act as antioxidants. The most studied include vitamins C and E, beta-carotene and the mineral selenium. Besides antioxidants, there are several enzymatic systems within the body that scavenge free radicals. Additionally, selenium, a trace metal that is required for proper functioning of one of the body's antioxidant enzymatic systems, is sometimes included in this category. The body cannot manufacture these micronutrients so they must be supplied in the diet.

The following vitamins have shown positive antioxidant effects:

Vitamin A or Retinol, or beta-carotene found in carrots, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peaches and apricots are particularly rich sources of beta-carotene.

Vitamin C also called ascorbic acid found in citrus fruits, green peppers, green leafy vegetables, strawberries, raw cabbage, tomatoes and potatoes.

Vitamin E is found in wheat germ, nuts, seeds, whole grains, green leafy vegetables, vegetable oil and fish-liver oil and selenium found in fish, shellfish, red meat, grains, eggs, chicken and garlic.

Natural fighters

The colourful stuff: carrots, apples, oranges, tomatoes (cooked), beet root, brinjal, dark green vegetables, olives, strawberries, honey (the darker the better) and so on. The tasty stuff: garlic, ginger, onion, nutmeg. The smelly stuff: Tea, green tea, spinach, tulsi and other herbs etc. Usually, the body's natural defence systems neutralise free radicals that develop, rendering them harmless. However, environmental assaults on the body, like UV-radiation, pollutants and alcohol, can overpower the body's ability to neutralise free radicals and damage the structure and function of the body's cells. A regular exercise and eating more fruits or vegetables will vitalise inherent antioxidant systems.

Green Living

We see terms like green health, anti-aging, etc., from magazine covers and supplements labels to beauty creams and exercise regimes—all promising to make us look and feel younger. While we can't avoid getting older, one thing is clear: the foods we eat play a crucial role in keeping our body healthy and our brain functioning well into our senior years. Most of the diseases like cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's, and arthritis, can be prevented by changes in diet alone. Researchers and nutritionists agree that eating an abundance of antioxidants, monounsaturated fats, and omega-3 fats can help us stay strong, healthy, and looking fabulous through the years.

KEY NUTRIENTS RICH FOODS

Cruciferous vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, sprouts, turnips, mustard greens, and broccoli contain a chemical compound called diindolylmethane (DIM), which, protects women against age-related hormonal changes by helping the body metabolise estrogen into a safer usable form, preventing breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive organs. Crucifers are also rich in indole-3-carbinol, retarding cancer cells' growth and pre-cancerous cells from developing.

Garlic contains a compound called alliin that helps protect the heart, helps lower blood cholesterol, lower blood pressure, slows the development of atherosclerosis and hardening of the arteries by decreasing the thickness of blood.

Turmeric, used mostly in curry powder and Indian cuisine, has been shown to prevent rheumatoid arthritis. Curcumin strengthens the immune system. This not only protects against arthritis, but it helps us fight off infection.

Beans, flax seed and lentils pack an anti-aging punch because they're loaded with lignans, a type of phytoestrogen that protects against breast cancer in post-

menopausal women, colon cancer, help protect the body from xenoestrogens, toxic compounds resulting from hormones in meat, dairy, and other sources that mimic natural estrogens. These wreak havoc on the endocrine system and increases the risk of hormonal cancers.

Tomatoes are rich in lycopene, a relatively hard-to-get antioxidant that protects against heart attack and stroke by preventing platelets from clotting by lowering cholesterol besides preventing prostate and breast cancer, and protect against skin damage from the sun. Eating tomato paste significantly lowers harmful LDL levels and increases protective HDL levels.

Spinach and other leafy vegetables contains carotenoids, plant pigments that have powerful antioxidant effects. One of these carotenoids, lutein, is especially helpful in protecting the eyes from muscular degeneration.

Green tea contains epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), - prevents formation and growth of tumors. It binds itself to free radicals, preventing damaging cells' DNA and also reactivate dying skin cells.

Olive oil is rich in healthy monounsaturated fats, one of the few fats that may lower LDL and raise HDL cholesterol levels, keeps skin cells supple, glowing and wrinkle-free. Hydroxytyrosol is an antioxidant compound that slows the aging process in the skin by stabilising the cell plasma membrane, which lines the cells walls. Other sources: Avocados, almonds, and most other nuts.

Salmon's high omega-3 content has a potent anti-inflammatory effect in the body. Omega-3 fats may help prevent mood disorders and depression.

Berries like cherries, cranberries, and prunes are packed with polyphenols, antioxidants that guard against inflammation, which produce amyloid plaques that damage the brain by killing neurons.

muscular movement of locomotion. (iii) **Medula Oblongata:** The lowermost part of the brain which continues as the spinal cord in the vertebral columns. It controls involuntary actions.

The weight of the average human brain triples between birth and adulthood. The final weight of the brain in an adult male is about 1.4 kg (and 1.3 kg in the case of a woman) which averages about 3% of the body weight.

The brain uses about 20% of the oxygen a man breathes, 20% of calories a man takes in, and about 15% of body blood.

The brain stores information equal to 500,000 sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Given its compact size, efficient power consumption (equivalent to a 20-watt lightbulb) and massive storage capacity (100 trillion bits of information) it can work better than any computer. At a time our brain can retain 7 facts in the short-term memory. Neurons are the longest cells in our body—measures 1.2m long. Fully formed human brain contains 100 billion neurons, or nerve cells. When neuron fires off a message, it is received in one of the thousands of receptor sites in another neuron, which stops it or sends it on. Brain makes up only 2% of the body weight but uses 20% of the oxygen and blood supply.

Nerves 72.418km of nerves send impulses as rapidly as 360 km per hour. The fastest nerve impulse travels at 532 Kmph.

The heart 27949.3 litres of blood are pumped through 99,776.6 km of blood vessels in a day. The hollow muscle pumps enough blood in an average lifetime to fill the fuel tanks of 56 moon rockets.

Unlike other muscles, its contractions are involuntary, beginning 4 weeks after conception, before nerve cells are formed, and continue to pulse even out of body in saline solution. Muscle cells called myocytes generate a total electrical current of about 2 watts that commands the fibres to contract. Shortly after birth, those cells stop dividing.

The Blood There are about 96,000 km of blood vessels in our body. The Blood comprise Plasma, RBC (red blood cells/erythrocytes), WBC (white Blood Cells/leukocytes) and Platelets (Thrombocytes).

Plasma is made up of 90% water, 7% proteins, and others like nutrients salts, nitrogen waste, carbon-dioxide and hormones.

8,000,000 **RBCs** are produced in the bone marrow every second constituting 54% of hemoglobin and their count ranges between 4-6 million per cu mm.

WBC count normally ranges between 4,500 to 11,000 per cu mm

Platelets also normally count between 15,000 and 300,000 per cu mm

The lungs Man breaths 13-17 times a minute at rest and 80 during exercise. On an average we breath 21600 times a day. We take in 295.261m litres in an average life span. The shock of birth causes the first breath. Muscle contract, opening the chest and lowering interior air pressure. The baby's mouth opens in protest, air rushes in, and the newborn begins to inhale about 60 times a minute, beginning the cycle of strife and breath. The adult human lungs have an internal area of 93 m², which is 40 times the external surface of the human body.

Bones' make-up

Organic Matter 33.30%; Phosphate of Lime 51.04%; Carbonate of Lime 11.30%; Fluoride of Calcium 2.00%; Phosphate of Magnesia 1.16%; Soda/Chloride of Sodium 1.00%.

Measuring Human Body

The human body is a very complicated system consisting of millions of cells-organised uniquely and functioning dynamically together. The complexities can be better understood when it is highlighted. Anatomists find it useful to divide the human body into eight systems: the skeleton, the muscles, the circulatory and respiratory systems, the digestive system, the urinary system, the glandular system, the nervous system, and the skin.

Body Statistics

The body: has about 6.096 metres of small intestine and six of large, with a surface area of more than 9.29 sqm, or five times the area of the body's skin. The intestines process, at about 2.54 cm per minute, 40.64 metric tonnes of food over the course of 70 years.

Skin: 2.72 kg of skin cover the 1.85 sq.m of surface on an average adult.

DNA: Deoxyribonucleic acid, a nucleic acid, is the vital constituent of chromosomes, responsible for transmitting genetic information, in the form of genes, from parents to offsprings. Each human cell contains about 2 metres of DNA supercoiled on itself such that it fits within the cell nucleus less than 10 micrometers. DNA comprise 4 bases adenine-A, guanine-G, thymine-T, and cytosine-C, a sugar and phosphonic acid, organised in a double helix format. Within this format, A pairs only with T, and G only with C.

Bones in the body: Babies are born with over 300 bones. Many of them fuse together as we grow up - and we end up with about 206. The longest bone: The 'femur' or the thigh bone (1/4 of your height). The smallest bone: The stapes or

the stirrup-bone in the middle ear - few millimetres. The strongest bone: The shin bone, which connects the knee to the ankle. It can support 1,600 kg. More than half of an adult's 206 bones are in the hands and feet. There are 27 bones in each hand and 26 in each foot- for a total of 106.

Human Brain: Consists of two parts: the brain located in the skull and the spinal cord located in the vertebral column.

Central Nervous System: The brain along with spinal cord constitutes the Nervous system. The brain consists of

(i) Cerebrum: The largest part of the brain consisting of two hemispheres which control voluntary actions and are the seat of intelligence, memory association, imagination and will. (ii) Cerebellum: The large mass having ridges and furrows attached to, cerebrum, which regulates

Value of a Human Life

In theory, a year of human life is priceless. In reality, it's worth \$50,000. That's the international standard most private and government-run health insurance plans worldwide use to determine whether to cover a new medical procedure. And it must guarantee one year of "quality life" for \$50,000.

New research, however, argues that that figure is far too low. Stanford economists have demonstrated that the average value of a year of quality human life is actually closer to about \$129,000. To get to that number, Stefanos Zenios and his colleagues at Stanford Graduate School of Business used kidney dialysis as a benchmark. Based on survey of half a million patients, one "quality of life" year has been defined as about two years of life on dialysis.

Human Glands

Glands are organs of the human body that manufacture some liquid products which are secreted from the cells. There are two types of glands:

(i) **Ducted Glands** Ducted glands secrete their product through well-defined ducts, e.g., Liver—secretes bile in the stomach; Lachrymal—secretes tears in the eyes; Salivary—secretes saliva in the mouth; Sweat glands in the skin—secretes sweat.

(ii) **Ductless Glands** Also called endocrine glands or internally secreting glands. They secrete hormones directly into the blood-stream in response to brain's instructions.

Body's instant energy provider: The

liver. It stores glycogen, which the body converts into glucose and burns to provide energy

Hardest substance of the body: The enamel of the teeth. By age 13, most people have 28 teeth (babies have 20). Around age 18, four more 'wisdom' teeth usually grow in to make a full set of 32 teeth.

The lighter halfmoon shape at the base of fingernails actually has a name: lunula (loon-yuh-luh)

Two billion body cells wear out and are replaced everyday.

The outermost layer of the skin is replaced every 15 to 30 days.

People who live in high altitude have 2 litres more blood than those living in lower regions.

Human Body Systems

Circulatory System: In the circulatory system the heart pumps blood, which travels through arteries, to all parts of the body. The blood carries the oxygen and food that the body needs to live. Veins carry the blood back to the heart.

Digestive System: The digestive system moves food through parts of the body called the esophagus, stomach, and intestines. As the food passes through, some of it is broken down into tiny particles called nutrients, which the body needs. Nutrients enter the blood stream, which carries them to all parts of the body. The digestive system then changes the remaining food into waste that is eliminated from the body.

Endocrine System: The endocrine system includes glands that are needed

for some body functions. There are two kinds of glands. Exocrine glands produce liquids such as sweat and saliva. Endocrine glands produce chemicals called hormones. Hormones control body functions, such as growth.

Nervous System: The nervous system enables us to feel, think, move, hear, and see. It includes the brain, the spinal cord, and nerves in all parts of the body. Nerves in the spinal cord carry signals back and forth between the brain and rest of the body. The brain tells us what to do and how to respond. It has three major parts. The cerebrum controls thinking, speech, and vision. The cerebellum is responsible for physical coordination. The brain stem controls the respiratory, circulatory, and digestive systems.

The liver Among some 1000 widely divergent functions, the liver regulates hormonal balance, cholesterol, blood clotting and poisons. The liver is the only organ that can regenerate; if as much as two thirds is removed, a whole liver can grow back.

The alimentary system is a 9.14 metre-long tube from mouth to anus that breaks down food into particles tiny enough to pass from intestines into the bloodstream. The nutrients are then routed to the largest gland in the body, the 1.36 kg liver, to be refined into chemical and warehoused until demand soars. Large intestine= 1.524m Small intestine= 7.5m

Stomach: produces 2 litres of hydrochloric acid daily. 500,000 cells of stomach's inner walls are replaced every minute so that the acid does not damage the walls.

Muscles: There are 639 muscles which also account for 40% of the total body weight. The total number of muscles in the body: over 630. It takes 17 muscles to smile and 42 to stare. Largest muscle: The gluteus maximus or the buttock muscle. The smallest muscle: The stapedius muscle which controls the stapes.

The reproductive organs: A man's testes manufacture more sperm per second (about 2000) than a woman's ovaries produce eggs in a life time (about 400).

Ear Our ears can detect 1500 different tones, 350db of loudness and trace the direction of a sound within 3°.

Tongue The tongue contains more than 10,000 taste buds which are renewed weekly. It can distinguish 500 different tastes.

Nose can smell 2000-4000 different smells.

Eyes Humans can detect 10,000 colours with our eyes and a lighted candle 1.6km away. We spend 30 minutes every day being blind, the time taken by blink-

Female DNA Path Found

Dutch scientists claim they have completed the first sequencing of an individual woman's DNA. The scientists at Leiden University Medical Centre have sequenced the entire genome of one of their female researchers, though no other scientists have yet verified their data.

The first sequencing of a composite human genome was announced in 2001. Four individual male genomes have so far been sequenced. The full complement of an organism's DNA is called its genome. In animals and people, it is made up of nearly 3 billion building blocks. The sequence of those blocks spells out the hereditary information, just as strings of letters spell out sentences. Decoding a genome, which is called sequencing, means identifying the order of the building blocks. While scientists have made great advances recently in identifying genes for certain diseases such as cancer, those have not yet translated into cures or treatments.

ing. Adults blink every 4 to 6 seconds on average

Ribs Humans usually have 12 sets of ribs, but 1 out of every 20 people is born with at least one extra.

The foot The average person will take one billion steps in his life.

Hair 1,25,000 hairs grow in the scalp, with 45 lost a day. Each follicle is capable of producing 9.14metre in a life time.

Other Information:

Largest organ in the body: The Skin. An average man's skin if spread out, would occupy nearly 2 sq.m.

Most important organ: The pituitary gland. Controls growth, reproduction and the working of the endocrine glands.

Some organs that never rest: The heart and the kidney.

Some organs that you can do without: Tonsils and the appendix.

Euthanasia

The word, euthanasia is derived from two Greek words (eu, well, and thanatos, death), which mean "a good death". The term is usually used in a medical context. It is the practice of mercifully terminating life when a person is hopelessly ill or injured or without prospect of recovery in order to hasten the relief or death. Prolonged hospitalisation or being bed-ridden for a long time causes lot of problems and inconveniences not only to the patient but to others too besides the escalating cost.

Birth control is the prevention of conception or implantation of fertilised ovum or termination of pregnancy. Contraception is effective when one has the knowledge of various forms of contraceptives and their usages. Lack of knowledge and strong belief in the myths around contraception result in unwanted pregnancies and sometimes unsafe abortions.

It is important to educate ourselves and remove any doubts on contraception to lead a healthy and balanced family life.

There are various types of contraceptives used as birth control methods. However, not all are equally effective. Depending on their convenience, it is for the couple to decide on the type of contraception. Importantly, the pregnancy or failure rate is the primary consideration for choosing a contraceptive.

The different methods are natural forms (like sexual abstinence during fertile period, temperature method, mucus method, withdrawal method, rhythm method); barrier methods (like condoms diaphragms which reduce the risk of AIDS, STDs and untimely pregnancies); oral contraceptive pills and intrauterine devices.

Birth control pills are oral contraceptives containing synthetic oestrogen and progesterone or synthetic progesterone alone. They are the most convenient method for all.

Human disease

A disease is a condition that impairs the proper function of the body or of one of its parts. Every living thing, both plants and animals, can succumb to disease. Hundreds of different diseases exist. Each has its own particular set of symptoms and signs, clues that enable a physician to diagnose the problem. A symptom is something a patient can detect, such as fever, bleeding, or pain. A sign is something a doctor can detect, such as a swollen blood vessel or an enlarged internal body organ. Every disease has a cause, although the causes of some

remain to be discovered. Every disease also displays a cycle of onset, or beginning, course, or time span of affliction, and end, when it disappears or it partially disables or kills its victim. An epidemic disease is one that strikes many persons in a community. When it strikes the same region year after year it is an endemic disease. An acute disease has a quick onset and runs a short course. A chronic disease has a slow onset and runs a sometimes years-long course. The gradual onset and long course of rheumatic fever makes it a chronic ailment.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

Disease	Causative organism
Gonorrhoea	Neisseria gonorrhoeae
Syphilis	Treponema pallidum
Chancroid	Haemophilus ducreyi
Granuloma inguinale	Donovania granulomatis
Trichomoniasis	Trichomonas vaginalis
Candidiasis	Candida albicans
Chlamydiasis	Chlamydia trachomatis
H.V. Vaginitis	Haemophilus vaginalis
Genital herpes hominis type II (HSV II)	
Condyloma acuminatum	Papova group virus
Scabies	Sarcoptes scabiei
Pediculosis pubis	Phthirus pubis

Bacterial Diseases

Disease	Causative agent
Typhoid	Salmonella typhosa
Tetanus	Clostridium tetani
Cholera	Vibrio cholerae
Syphilis	Treponema pallidum
Pneumonia	Diplococcus pneumoniae
Gonorrhoea	Neisseria gonorrhoeae
Leprosy	Mycobacterium leprae
Plague	Mycobacterium tuberculosis
Whooping cough	Bordetella pertussis
Meningitis	Meningococcus
Diphtheria	Corynebacterium diphtheriae

VIRAL DISEASES

Disease and causative agent: Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Chickenpox: Varicella herpes virus;
Influenza: Orthomyxovirus;
Measles (Rubeola): Paramyxovirus;
Mumps: Paramyxovirus; German
Measles: Togavirus;
Poliomyelitis: Enterovirus;
Rabies: Rabdovirus.

DISEASE OF EYE

Name of disease and symptoms: Astig-

matism: Visual activity is decreased, eye strain causes headache, cylindrical lens should be used.

Cataract: Normal vision is hampered, blindness may be caused. Lens is removed and artificial lens is used.

Glaucoma: Aqueous humour pressure increases. It may cause blindness.

Hypermetropia (far sightedness): Distant objects can be seen clearly, near objects can't be seen clearly. Image formed behind retina. Biconvex lens should be used.

Strabismus (Squint): Eye ball turns to any of the sides.

Trachoma: Redness in the eye, sensation for foreign body in eye.

CANCER

Cancer is a general term used to describe over 200 individual diseases. These diseases progress differently over a period of time but share certain characteristics that include development within any tissue of a malignant growth derived from abnormalities of the host. The abnormal cells grow without any control, invade through normal tissue barriers, spread to local and distant sites within the host, and reproduce indefinitely.

Sometimes, cancer cells do not remain confined to one part of the body and penetrate and infiltrate into the adjoining tissues and dislocate their functions. Some of the cancer cells get detached from the main site of origin and travel by blood and lymph to sites distant from the original tumour and form fresh colonies, called metastasis or secondary growth. Cell which undergo rapid, abnormal and uncontrolled growth are called neoplastic cells. The growth resulting from the division of such cells are called as neoplastic growth or tumours.

Tumours are commonly classified as: (i) **Benign tumours:** Abnormal and persistent cell division that remains localised at

KINDS OF DISEASE

Infectious (communicable) diseases are those that can be passed between persons such as by means of airborne droplets from a cough or sneeze. Tiny organisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi and worms can produce infectious diseases. Whatever the causative agent, it survives in the person it infects and is passed on to another. Sometimes, a disease-producing organism gets into a person who shows no symptoms of the disease. The asymptomatic carrier can then pass the disease on to someone else without even knowing he has it.

Non-infectious (non-communicable) diseases are caused by malfunctions of the body. These include organ or tissue degeneration, erratic cell growth, and faulty blood formation and flow. Also included are disturbances of the stomach and intestine, the endocrine system, and the urinary and reproductive systems. Some diseases can be caused by diet deficiencies, lapses in the body's defense system, or a poorly operating nervous system.

Deficiency diseases: due to deficiency in the diet of nutrients. They can generally be cured by providing the missing nutrients.

(a) **Protein deficiency** causes two major diseases Kwashiorkor and Marasmus.

(b) **Mineral deficiency** causes specific diseases. (i) *Anaemia*: Iron deficiency causes haemoglobin deficiency in blood. (ii) *Goitre*: Iodine deficiency causing no synthesis of thyroxine hormone of thyroid gland). (iii) *Hypokalemia*: potassium

deficiency. (iv) *Hypochromia*: sodium deficiency causes this state of low blood pressure and loss of body weight.

(c) **Vitamin deficiency** causes a variety of diseases. (i) *Night Blindness* (Vitamin A). (ii) *Xerophthalmia* (dryness of eye due to lack of Vitamin A). (iii) *Perniosis* (Vitamin A). (iv) *Beri-beri* (Vitamin B₁-thiamine). (v) *Ariboflavinosis* (Vitamin B₂-riboflavin). (vi) *Pellagra*: (nicotinic acid/niacin—part of B complex group). (vii) *Fernicious Anaemia*: (Vitamin B₁₂-Cobalamin). (viii) *Scurvy*: (Vitamin C—ascorbic acid). (ix) *Rickets*: (a disease causing disorder of calcium and phosphorus metabolism due to Vitamin D deficiency, often found in the early childhood: 6 months and 2 years. (x) *Osteomalacia*: (Vitamin D).

Infectious diseases are caused by various agents such as virus, bacteria, fungi and protozoa. (a) *Diseases caused by Bacteria*: Cholera, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Tetanus, Typhoid, Plague, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Pneumonia, Bacillar dysentery, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and Botulism. (b) *Diseases caused by Viruses*: Chickenpox, Measles, Poliomylitis, Rabies, Mumps, Influenza, Hepatitis, Herpes, Viral Encephalitis and AIDS. (c) *Diseases caused by Fungi*: Ringworm, Athlete's foot, Dhobie itch. (d) *Diseases caused by protozoans*: Amoebiasis, Malaria, Sleeping sickness, Kalaazar, Diarrhoea. (e) *Diseases caused by Worms*: Filaria, Tapeworm and Hookworm transmission.

Degenerative diseases occur due to malfunctioning of some organ or organ system in the body. They are Heart Attack, Diabetes mellitus, Arthritis,

Buried in the Earth for Ever

Two Australian species of orchid spend their entire lives buried in the earth. *Pyranthella gardneri* (1928) and *Cryptanthemis slazeri* (1931). These orchids feed on decaying plant material in the soil.

BLOOD VESSEL DISEASE

Cholesterol: A blood cholesterol level over 240 mg/dl (milligrams of cholesterol per deciliter of blood) approximately doubles the risk of coronary heart disease. Blood cholesterol levels between 200 and 240 mg/dl are in a zone of moderate and increasing risk. An estimated 6.5 million (10.8% of) youths age 4-19 have levels of 200 mg/dl or higher.

BLOOD PRESSURE

High blood pressure, or hypertension, affects people of all races, sexes, ethnic origins, and ages. Various causes can trigger this often symptomless disease. Since hypertension can increase one's risk for stroke, heart attack, kidney failure, and congestive heart failure, it is recommended that individuals have a blood pressure reading at least once every year. A blood pressure reading is really two measurements in one, with one written over the other, such as 122/78.

The upper number (systolic pressure) represents the amount of pressure in the blood vessels when the heart contracts (beats) and pushes blood through the circulatory system.

The lower number (diastolic pressure) represents the pressure in the blood vessels between beats, when the heart is resting. Normal blood pressure should be below 130/85 and "high normal" is between 130/85 and 139/89.

High blood pressure is divided into 4 stages, based on severity: *Stage 1 (mild)* high blood pressure ranges from 140/90 to 159/99; *Stage 2 (moderate)* is from

160/100 to 179/109; *Stage 3 (severe)* is from 180/100 to 209/119; *Stage 4 (very severe)* is 210/120 and up. The diagnosis of hypertension can be based on either the systolic or the diastolic reading. High blood pressure can only be controlled by lifestyle modifications and medication.

HEART ATTACK

Warning Signs: • Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing, or pain in the centre of chest lasting 2 minutes or longer • Pain may radiate to the shoulder, arm, neck, or jaw • Sweating may accompany pain or discomfort • Nausea and vomiting also may occur • Shortness of breath, dizziness, or fainting may accompany other signs.

Stroke - Warning Signs: • Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body • Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding • Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes • Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination • Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

GENETIC DISORDER

(i) **ABO incompatibility:** O group mother don't possess antigen A or B but has anti-A and anti-B antibodies. A or B group foetus in O group invites antibodies from the mother causing partial destruction of RBCs and production of bilirubin (affecting the baby with mild anaemia and jaundice). Similarly, A-group foetus in B-group mother or B-group foetus in A-group mother is attacked by antibodies from mother. ABO hemolytic (RBC-destroying)

Universal Blood Type

A team of Danish, English and French scientists has found a way to convert Types A, B and AB blood into Type O - the universal donor blood group that can be given to anybody. The enzymatic blood conversion system enables the precise and permanent conversions of blood groups to enzyme converted group O, known as ECO red cells and is safe.

for mapping internal tissues, to highlight pathological changes and studying tissue metabolism. Imaging can be obtained from any plane. (vi) *Ultrasound imaging* is used to diagnose kidney stone, gall bladder stone, intestinal obstruction, fallopian tube, age, health, gender of foetus, etc.

C. Therapeutic Instruments (i)

Pace-maker – regulates the heart beat. (It is affected by microwave-oven, metal

detectors, electric shaver, cellular phone, automobile ignition, etc.) (ii) *Angioplasty* – used to open a blocked coronary artery vessel through ballooning. (iii) *Angiography* is a method of introducing radio-opaque contrast medium or fluoroscopic chemical through various parts of heart to study the health of walls, valves, ventricles, coronary arteries, etc. The progress could be filmed.

Viral Fever

Viral fever refers to a broad spectrum of conditions where viral infections are associated with elevation of body temperature. In medical terms, any fever caused as a result of viral infection is a viral fever. These viral infections may show generalised symptoms, but may target specific organs. The course and duration of the fever does not follow any set pattern and is frequently accompanied by, though not always by all of them, generalised body ache, running nose, cough, shivering, skin rash and irritability. Viral infections may affect any age group, and are seen worldwide. They require only symptomatic treatment. Some are highly contagious. Most of them are not dangerous and are self-limited, but some can progress rapidly leading to death.

The cause: Most viral infections are spread by the intake of contaminated water or food, or by direct contact. The infection then spreads locally and, thereafter, enters into the blood stream or lymph channels. Some of the viral infections can be transmitted sexually or by direct inoculation into the blood stream. The duration of the primary infection may vary from days to several weeks. Manifestation

of the disease is usually a consequence of the virus multiplying at a specific site.

The symptoms: Once the virus enters the body, there is an incubation period when the virus multiplies to a level high enough to cause infection. This is followed by a phase of fatigue and body and muscle aches that may lead to the onset of fever. The fever may be low grade or high grade. Inflammation of the throat, a running nose, nasal congestion, headache, redness of the eyes, cough, muscle and joint pains and a skin rash could be present. Fatigue and body pain could be disproportionate to the level of fever, and lymph glands in the neck may swell up. The illness is usually self-limited but the fatigue and cough may persist for a few weeks. Sometimes pneumonia, vomiting and diarrhoea, jaundice or arthritis (joint swelling) may complicate the initial viral fever. Some viral fevers are spread by insects, for example, arbovirus, and can cause a bleeding tendency, which results in bleeding from the skin and several other internal organs and can be fatal.

Chikungunya fever

Chikungunya fever is a viral disease trans-

disease of new born is quite common and less severe as compared to Rh-incompatibility). (ii) *Sickle Cell anaemia*: It is due to a recessive autosomal gene (Hbs) that causes abnormalities in haemoglobin resulting in sickle of RBCs-sickle cells (rigid sickle cells obstructing capillary blood flow). (iii) *Phenylketonuria* causes deficiency of an enzyme called phenylalanine hydroxylase in liver (characterised by mental retardation, hypopigmentation of skin and hair, eczema, mousy odour of skin, hair and urine). (iv) *Haemophilia* a recessive trait that occurs due to absence of plasma thromboplastin or anti-haemophilia globulin. (v) *Red-Green Colour Blindness*: causes one unable to distinguish between red and green colour (predominantly in male), (vi) *Thalassemia* results from defective synthesis of sub-units of haemoglobin, (vii) *Downs' Syndrome* or *Mongolian Idiocy* is caused by trisomy of 21st autosome chromosome having a total of 47 chromosomes instead of 46. It is characterised by round face, flattened nasal bridge, broad forehead, projecting lower lip, short neck, stubby fingers, etc.

MENTAL ILLNESS

Psychosis: disease of CNS. It could also be related to diabetes, hypertension, and TB. In this case the patient is unaware of the illness and refuses treatment.

Epilepsy: Seizures characterised by abnormal electrical discharge in a part of brain. Symptoms: fits of convulsions (jerk, stiffness, tongue biting, sensory changes), cry, etc.

Neurosis: The patients show excessive

reaction to given stress. It involves abnormal anxiety, fear, sadness, vague aches and pains.

Schizophrenia: It is characterised by disorganised personality (like auditory hallucinations, delusions, illogical thinking, and sense of being controlled by outside forces). Regular use of chlorpromazine and psychosocial therapy give lot of relief.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

A. Diagnostic Instruments: (i) *ECG* – *electrocardiograph* detects myoelectrical changes during cardiac cycle (sino-atrial block, angina pectoris, valvular defects, etc.). (ii) *Echocardiography*: a sonographic imaging of heart, heart vessels, valves, walls, etc. (iii) *EEG* – *electroencephalograph* records electric activity from different parts of brain. It diagnoses epilepsy, brain tumour, abscesses, drug effects on brain, sleep disorder, etc. (iv) *MET* – *magnetoencephalographic technique* detects weak magnetic waves to find out the health of various parts of brain. (v) *Autoanalysers* are automatic computerised instruments that estimate different biochemicals present in body fluids like urea, cholesterol, glucose, proteins, enzymes, etc.

B. Imaging Instruments: (i) *Tomography* – creates 3D image of internal area in layers. It detects cysts, calculi, cancer, etc. (ii) *CT Scanning* – an imaging method using invasive technique with low-level X-ray radiation. It detects disorder in abdomen, chest, spinal chord, internal haemorrhage, tumour, etc. (iii) *CAT scanning* – detects problems inside the skull and location of any pathological condition. (iv) *MRI* – it uses strong external magnetic field

A Fabulous Jump

There is a flea that can jump as far as 13" and as high as 8" – i.e. 130 times its own height. *Pulex irritans* (the human flea) feat is equivalent of a human being jumping to a height of 780' – enough to reach the roof of a 70-storey building.

Inventions and Discoveries

Date	Inventor
1930	Richard Drew
1903	Orville & Wilbur Wright
1902	Carrier
1939	Ohain
1957	Willem Koff
1918	John Browning
1944	Wemher von Braun
1888	John J. Loud
1938	Lazlo Biro
1800	Alessandro Volta
1839-40	K. Macmillan
1780	Benjamin Franklin
1798	Tennant
1804	Appert
1888	Karl Benz
1876	Gottlieb Daimler
1824	Joseph Aspdin
1909	Ehrlich
1895	Nicolas & Jean Lumiere
1973	Boyer, Cohen
1972	RCA
1987	Sinclair
1973	Hounsfield
1895	Rudolf Diesel
1902	Dr F. Lancheater
1951	Cnck-UK
	Watson-US, Wilkins-UK
1882	H.W. Seeley
1879	Thomas Alva Edison
1873	Zenobe Gramme
1888	Nikola Tesla
1894	GH Wheeler, JW Reno
1816	George Manby
1933	E.H. Armstrong
1884	Lewis E. Waterman
1942	Wemher von Braun
1952	Sonotone Corp. USA
1953	Dr. John H. Gibbon
1924	Etienne Oehmichen
1984	M. Cockerell
1905	Simon Binet
1937	Sir Frank Whittle
1957	Gould
1852	Elisha G. Otis
1879	E.W. von Siemens
1900	Horace Short
8.C 3800	Sumeria-clay tablets
1826	John Walker
1876	Alexander G.Bell
1971	R.Noyce & G. Moore
1590	Z. Janssen

Microscope, elect.	1931	Ruska Knoll
Microwave Oven	1947	Percy LeBaron Spencer
Motor Cycle	1885	G. Daimler (Cannstatt)
MRI	1971	Damadian
Musical Synthesiser	1964	Robert A. Moog
Neon Lamp	1910	Georges Claude
Neutron	1932	Chadwick
Optical Fibre	1955	Narinder Kapany
Odometer	1724	Memeir
Paper	A.D. 105	China
Pacemaker	1952	Zoll
Pencil	1792	Jacques-N.Conte
Penodic table	1869	Mendeleyev
Photocopier	1938	Carlson
Piano	1709	Cristofori
Pistol, revolver	1836	Colt
Plutonium fission	1940	Kennedy, Whal, Seaborg, Segre
Post-it-note	1980	3M
Pop-up toaster	1927	Charles Strite
Postage Stamp	1840	Sir Rowland Hill
Radiocarbon dating	1947	Libby
Radio Telegraphy (Trans Atlantic)	1901	G. Marconi
Refrigerator	1850	J. Harrison, A. Catlin
Relativity theory	1905	Albert Einstein
Roller skates	1863	J.L. Plimpton
Rubber (Tyres)	1846	Thomas Hancock
Rubber (vulcanised)	1841	Charles Goodyear
Rubik Cube	1975	Prof. Emo Rubik
Safety Pin	1849	Walter Hunt
Seat belt	1959	Volvo
Skyscraper	1882	W. Le Baron Jenney
Slide Rule	1621	William Oughtred
Stethoscope	1819	Laennec
Submarine	1776	David Bushnell
Super Computer	1976	J.H. Van Tassel
Swiss army knife	1891	Karl Elsener
Tank	1914	Sir Ernest D. Swington
Teddy bear	1903	Margarete Steiff
Telegaph	1787	M. Lammon
Telephone, cellular	1947	Bell
Telescope	1608	Hans Lippershey
Television (electronic)	1927	P.T. Farnsworth
Television, colour	1928	John Logie Baird
Uranium fission, atomic reactor	1942	Zilard
Vacuum cleaner, elec.	1907	Spa
Velcro (fastener)	1948	Georges de Mestral
Washing Machine (mod.)	1910	Alva J.
Watch	1462	B. M.
Water Closet	1589	J. Harrington
X-ray	1895	Wilhelm K. Roentgen
Yo-Yo	1929	Donald F.

Cloning Claim to Yield Human Embryos

Scientists at a Stemagen, based in San Diego, a biotechnology company, claim that they have used cloning to create human embryos from the skin cells of two men. The work represents a step toward the promise of creating personalised embryonic stem cells that could be used for medical treatments. Although the embryos grew only to a very early stage, the work could also theoretically be seen as a step toward creating babies that are genetic copies of other people.

According to scientists at Stemagen, they were the first to use human adult cells to create cloned embryos that advanced to the stage known as a blastocyst, from which embryonic stem cells typically are extracted. Stemagen wants to make stem cell lines for research and medical treatments.

A company called Advanced Cell Technology created human embryos in 2001 but they died well short of the roughly 100-cell blastocyst stage. In 2004, South Korean researchers led by Woo Suk Hwang reported they had made both cloned embryos and stem cells, but those claims were found to be fraudulent.

mitted to humans by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) is a member of the genus Alphavirus, in the family Togaviridae. *Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito), a household container breeder and aggressive daytime biter which is attracted to humans, is the primary vector of CHIKV to humans. CHIKV infection can cause a debilitating illness, most often characterised by fever, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, rash, and joint pain. The term 'chikungunya' is Swahili for 'that which bends up.' The incubation period (time from infection to illness) can be 2-12 days, but is usually 3-7 days. Treatment is symptomatic—rest, fluids, and medicines that may relieve symptoms of fever and aching.

Prevention: The best way to avoid CHIKV infection is to prevent mosquito bites. Infected persons should be protected from further mosquito exposure (staying indoors and/or under a mosquito net during the first few days of illness) so that they can't contribute to the transmission cycle. Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever

Dengue hemorrhagic fever is a severe, poten-

tially fatal infection that occurs when someone with immunity to one type of Dengue virus is infected by a different type. It is spread by certain mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*) that bite primarily during the day.

Four different Dengue viruses have been implicated in both Dengue fever and Dengue hemorrhagic fever. Dengue hemorrhagic fever occurs when the patient contracts a different Dengue virus after previous infection(s) by another type. Prior immunity to a different Dengue virus type is important in the production of this severe disease. Worldwide, more than 100 million cases of dengue fever occur every year. A small percent of these develop into Dengue hemorrhagic fever.

The Zika virus

It is spread by mosquitoes, produces an itchy rash, pinkeye, joint pain and fever. Since its discovery 60 years ago in an ill monkey in the Zika forest in Uganda, it has caused rare cases and outbreaks in Africa and Southeast Asia. While Zika does not seem to be fatal, it is posing unusual challenges to the public health system. There is no specific treatment or vaccine. This little-known virus is causing a big fuss in Micronesia. There have been at least 42 confirmed cases and 65 probable ones.

The Universe

Scientists now believe that there are many galaxies and that clusters of many galaxies make our Universe. Continuing this trend of astronomical upsizing, the latest speculation among astronomers is that maybe the Universe we know is only one of the many - and that there may be many Universes, making a vast Super Universe. Today we speak of them as Space Sciences.

Outer Space

The difference between space and outer space is that space means the whole Universe including the Earth while outer space means all space other than the Earth. In fact, outer space begins where the earth's atmosphere ends and extends on and on in all directions.

Outer space is vast. Our terrestrial units of measurement hardly suit its dimensions. So we have evolved new units of

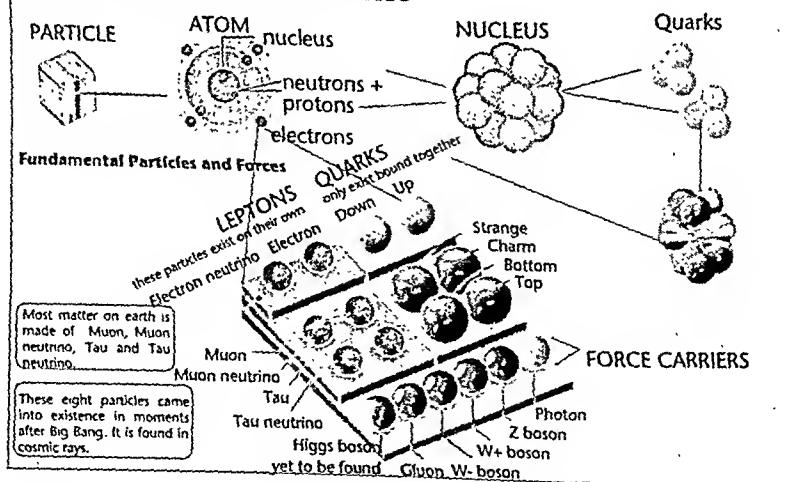
measurement like the Light Year and the Astronomical Unit (AU). A *Light Year* is the distance covered by light in one year in vacuum travelling at a speed of 299,792.5 km per second. The solar system is less than one light-day (the distance light travels in one day) across.

Astronomical Unit represents the mean distance between the Sun and the Earth. Distances within the solar system are measured in AU. Light travels this distance in 8.3 min approx. AU in terrestrial measurements is 149,597,870 km. The distance between the Sun and Pluto, the outermost planet, averages 39 AU. In terms of space dimensions, a Light Year is made up of about 60,000 AUs.

Astronomy

The word is from the Greek astron meaning Star (and nautes meaning sailor). Astronomy is the scientific study of the

Standard Structure of Universe



COSMOS

heavens and all that is therein. It is not to be confused with Astrology-which lacks any kind of scientific basis and encompasses the belief that heavenly bodies affect human lives.

Modern astronomy began with Italian astronomer Galileo. In 1609 Galileo heard of the telescope made by the Dutchman Hans Lippershey. It was this instrument, a refractor telescope, that heralded the era of optical astronomy. Galileo made several startling discoveries. He found that the moon's surface is rugged, and that Pleiades is a group of over 40 stars. He discovered four of Jupiter's moons and observed the sunspots.

Galaxies

Galaxies are huge congregations of stars held together by force of gravity. They are so big that they are also called 'island universes'. Studies of distant spaces with optical and radio telescopes indicate that there may be about 1.3 trillion galaxies in the visible Universe. Galaxies seem to be scattered in space. Galaxies tend to be grouped together into clusters, and some clusters appear to be grouped into superclusters. All the galaxies we look at will display red shift in their spectra, indicating they are moving from from us. Current data suggest that the galaxies are moving apart



Andromeda Galaxy: The most distant galaxy we can see from Earth without the aid of a telescope or binoculars.

at the rate of 50-100 kps for every million parsecs of distance.

A structural analysis of the known galaxies brings out three major forms—spiral, elliptical, and irregular. Spiral galaxies have a central nucleus with great spiral arms trailing round it. The spirals comprise some 80 % of the galaxies so far known. Elliptical galaxies show purely elliptical shape without any spiral arms. They range in shape from spherical ellipticals to extremely saucer-shaped ones and account for about 17 % of the known galaxies. Irregulars, as the name suggests, show no definite geometric pattern or shape.

The Milky Way

The Milky Way is our home galaxy. Our

International Year of Astronomy

Astronomy is an invaluable source of inspiration for humankind throughout all nations.

IYA2009 celebrates the first astronomical use of the telescope by Galileo - which initiated 400 years of astronomical discoveries. It triggered a scientific



revolution which profoundly affected our worldview. Now telescopes on the ground and in space explore the Universe, 24 hours a day, across all wavelengths of light.

The IYA2009 will highlight global cooperation for peaceful purposes - the search for our cosmic origin, our common heritage which connect all citizens of planet Earth and potential for international cooperation.

Kibo - A school bus-sized lab

The \$1 billion Kibo (pronounced KEE'-boh) lab which means "hope" in Japanese launched aboard space shuttle *Discovery*, is the biggest and, by far, the most elaborate room at the international space station: a 37-foot-long scientific workshop as large as a school bus, with its own hatch to the outside for experiments and a pair of robot arms. Kibo dwarfs the two labs already in orbit NASA's modest-size *Destiny* and the even smaller European Space Agency's *Columbus*. Kibo is so enormous that three shuttle flights were needed to get it all up. Seven astronauts, one of them Japanese, delivered the actual lab along with the larger of the two robot arms.



The porch for outdoor science experiments and the smaller robot arm will fly in 2009.

Discovery's flight was a milestone for NASA

in more than one way. It was the 10th shuttle mission since the 2003 *Columbia* tragedy and will fly just 10 more shuttle flights before the fleet is retired in 2010. That will also mark the end of space station construction.

of it would weigh several tonnes.

Supergiants are huge stars, with all their hydrogen fuel used up in their core but continue to expand hundreds of times bigger than its original size before they finally die.

Novae and Supernovae are stars, whose brightness increases suddenly by 10 to 20 magnitudes or more and then fades gradually into normal brightness. The distinction between the two types has not been precisely explained. It would appear that they differ in degree and not in kind. The sudden increase in brightness is attributed to a partial or outright explosion. In novae, it seems that only the outer shell explodes, whereas in supernovae the entire star explodes. Novae occur more frequently than supernovae. Astronomers say that when the whole structure of the star is blown to pieces, it flares up in brilliance so that its intrinsic luminosity for the first 30 days following the explosion is equal to about 1000 million of Suns in the Solar system.

Variable stars are stars that show varying degrees of luminosity. Delta Cephei, the first of this type of stars noticed

in 1784 by the deaf and dumb English astronomer John Goodricke, has a regular fluctuation of brightness every 5 days and 9 hours. Stars of fluctuating luminosity, thus came to be called Cepheid Variables. In stars of this type, luminosity fluctuates between periods as small as a few hours to as long as 1000 days or more. Generally speaking, the slower the bright-dull-bright cycle, the higher the luminosity.

Quasars are powerful quasi stellar sources of radio radiations.

Pulsars are variable stars which emit regular pulses of electro-magnetic waves of very short duration.

Black Hole

Strange things happen to a star at the end of its life if its mass is more than 3-times the mass of the Sun. It will collapse, becoming more and more compact. The collapse continues until the star becomes so dense that nothing, not even light, can escape from its gravity. Hence the object is dark and can't be viewed directly. According to General Relativity, bodies of matter curve space. If the body of matter was very dense (tons of matter packed into a small space), it convulses space into

Solar Statistics

Distance from the Earth	149.8 million km
Absolute Visual Magnitude	4.75
Diameter	1,384,000 km
Rotation as seen from the Earth	
(at the Equator)	25.38 days
(near the poles)	33 days
Chemical Composition	
Hydrogen	71%
Helium	26.5%
Other Elements	2.5%
Age	4.5 billion years aprox.
Expected lifetime of a normal star	10 billion years aprox.
Mass	330,000x Earth's mass

* The mean distance from the Earth to the Sun (150 million km) translated into flying hours means that a jet aircraft capable of 1000 km/hr would need more than 17 years of non-stop flying to reach the Sun.

Corona is magnificently visible during eclipses. The temperature of the corona, which extends far into space, is about 2,700,000°C, hot enough to emit ultra-violet and X-ray wavelengths. The corona extends millions of kilometres into space above the photosphere and is very hot — millions of degrees Celsius.

Throughout the rest of the sun, temperatures drop as gases move away from the core. Outside the core is the convection zone. Here, turbulent motions of gases transport the energy generated in the core towards the photosphere. The visible white light of the corona is made up of a continuum of colours, such as violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. Super-imposed on this spectrum are hundreds of dark lines called the Fraunhofer lines. The different sets of lines constitute the signatures of the various elements that make up the Sun and their temperature.

Recent researches using satellites have

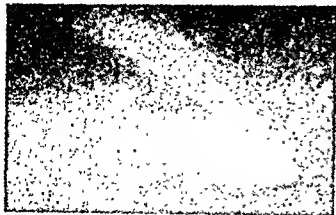
shown that the solar wind is made up of plasma, that is, ionised gas, mostly hydrogen and helium, containing nearly an equal number of protons and electrons. It flows outward from the Sun at supersonic speeds, around 400 m a second. Apparently, this wind sweeps through the whole Solar System to a distance of 40 AU from the Sun which coincides with the very limits of the planetary orbits. When these eruptions roll out of the atmosphere of the Sun for many kilometres, they are called solar flares. The solar flares are spectacular — hot ionised gas rolling out as enormous clouds, 20 to 40 times the size of the Earth at speeds of around 100 km per second through corona, the outer layer of the Sun's atmosphere.

The surface of the Sun changes continuously. Bright spots called plages and dark spots called sunspot frequently form and disappear. Gases often shoot up violently from the surface.

Solar activity has been observed to follow a 11-year cycle. Owing to the Sun's rotation, the solar wind travels in spirals and carries with it magnetic fields. The Earth's magnetic field—the magnetosphere—acts as a shield against the ever-blowing solar wind and deflects it away from the Earth. Nevertheless, particles of solar wind sometimes pierce the magnetic shield and enter the upper atmosphere, where, like the solar flares, they cause auroral displays.

The solar wind distorts the shape of the magnetosphere. The magnetosphere extends to a distance of 64,000 km above the Earth—10 times the radius of the Earth. On the part of the Earth exposed to the Sun (the sunlit side), the solar wind sweeps along the magnetosphere past the Earth. On the other side of the Earth (the night side), the solar wind converges again and compresses the magnetic field into a plume or tail, more or less like what

Comet's Periodicity



Encke's comet	3.3 years
Biela's comet	6.6 years
Halley's comet	76 years
Swift-Tuttle	133 years
Hale-Bopp comet	4000 years
Kohoutek's comet	75,000 years

around the Sun. Comets fall into two groups: (a) with definite elliptical orbits (b) with an open curve (like a parabola). In the first type, cometary orbits are very elongated. The comets with elliptical orbits are called periodic comets. They move slowly in the cold, outer reaches of the solar system, and very fast when they approach the Sun.

The second type of comet moves in an open curve called non-periodic comets also. They move out indefinitely, never to return to the Sun again.

Meteors

As the Earth travels in its orbit around the Sun, it continually encounters meteoroids head-on. On a clear, dark night one may see more than 10 meteors in an hour.

Sometimes an unusually large number of small meteors can be seen in rapid succession—perhaps more than 50 an hour. Such a display is called a meteor shower and occurs when the Earth passes through a swarm of meteoroids. Because of their small size, these meteors generally burn up in the upper atmosphere and never reach the ground. Some meteor showers occur regularly each year and coincide with the passage of the Earth through the orbit of a comet.

Asteroids

Asteroids are smaller heavenly bodies generally found between the orbits of the planets Mars and Jupiter. They may be about 100,000 in numbers but their total mass is only a few hundredths the mass of the Moon. They include Ceres (the largest - 940kms in diameter), Vesta (has a light coloured surface and brightest as seen from the Earth), Eros and Icarus. Some asteroids are in orbits that bring them closer to the Earth, and some like Apollo, even cross Earth's orbit. There are Bifurcated asteroids, first discovered in 1990. They are, in fact, two chunks of rock that touch each other. It may be that at least 10% of the asteroids approaching the Earth are bifurcated.

Antimatter

Like Superman's alter-ego, Bizarro, the particles making up normal matter also have their opposite versions. An electron has a negative charge, for example, but its anti-matter equivalent, the positron, is

Abundance

The Perseids meteors peaked in August 2008 and showered about 90 to 100 meteors an hour. Perseids appear to originate in the constellation Perseus.

The shower offers one of the year's best

chances to see a shooting star. 109P Swift-Tuttle comet responsible for the Perseid meteor shower, in 1992, caused a spectacular meteor shower with rates four times higher than average.



Launch Centres

- Cape Canaveral, Florida- NASA reusable space shuttles
- Baikonur Space-drome, Russia
- Kouro, French Guiana- European Space Agency
- Tanegashima- Japan
- San Marco Launch Platform- Kenya
- Xi Chang Satellite Launch Centre, China
- Sriharikota Launching Range- India

it does to comets. The tail thus formed extends to over 6 million km on the night side of the Earth.

Sunspots are dark patches noticed on the surface of the Sun. They appear dark because they are cooler (around 1500°C) than the surface of the Sun which has a temperature of about 6000°C. The largest spot ever measured (April, 1974) covered 18,130 million sq kms or approximately 0.7 % of the Sun's visible surface. The life periods of these spots also vary. They may last from a few hours to many weeks.

Polar Auroras are two auroras, the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights and the Aurora Australis or Southern Lights. These are lights that sweep across the sky in waves or streamers or folds. They are very often multi-coloured and provide one of the finest spectacles in nature. They occur in the Arctic and the Antarctic regions respectively. But the Northern Lights can be seen as far south as New Orleans in America and the Southern Lights as far north as Australia.

The magnetosphere is the earth's magnetic shield. It was at first called the Van Allen Belts after the American physicist, James Van Allen who discovered them in 1959. Van Allen, in analysing the data from the earlier Explorer and Pioneer rockets found two belts of high intensity radiation in the upper atmosphere. Pioneer 12 later showed that these belts were a part of a large band of radiation called the magnetosphere. It extended far out to about 64,000 kilometres from the Earth's surface.

Comets

Comets probably derive their name from their tail, as in Latin 'comets' means "long-haired." Comets may originate in a huge cloud called the Oort Cloud that is supposed to surround Solar System. Extremely bright comets such as Hale-Bopp are rare. Not all comets have tails

The tail takes shape only when the comet gets close to the Sun. When first viewed through a telescope the bright head of a comet, called Coma, looks like a hazy dot. Sometimes a coma contains a star-like point called a Nucleus. The nucleus of a comet is extremely small. Solar energy warms comet's head as it moves sunward and vapourises the frozen-crystallised gases. These gases stream out and form a spectacular, glowing tail behind the comet's head. As the comet approaches the Sun the solar wind, which consists of high-speed atomic nuclei, protons, and electrons, sweeps cometary gases away from the Sun, producing a straight tail of up to 150 m kms in length. At maximum size the tail may be 250m km in length. The tail attains maximum length and brightness soon after the comet has passed its perihelion. Some comets may become so bright as to be visible even in daylight. Comet tails always point away from the Sun because of the force exerted by solar wind and radiation on the cometary material.

Comets have very low density. Although they are larger than any body in the Solar System by volume except the Sun, their density is only one 10,000-millionth of the Earth's.

Comet has no individuality. They are

Martian 'Water'



Phoenix successfully landed in the predetermined 100 km by 20 km terrain named Green Valley of Vastitas Borealis on May 25, 2008, in the Martian northern hemisphere completing a 680



million km flight from the Earth. Phoenix entered the Martian atmosphere at nearly 21,000 km per hour, and within 7 minutes had to decrease its speed to 8 km per hour before touching down on the surface.

JPL's Barry Goldstein, Phoenix project manager, confirmed on May 28, 2008, of atmospheric entry and Radio signals indicating Phoenix surviving its difficult descent and landed 15 minutes earlier.

It carried scientific payloads like Mars Descent Imager, Robotic arm and camera, Surface stereo imager, Thermal and evolved gas analyzer, Microscopy, electrochemistry and conductivity analyzer.

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera photographed Phoenix

suspended from its parachute during its descent through the Martian atmosphere. This marks the first time ever one spacecraft has photographed another in the act of landing on a planet.

Water Hunt

The existence of water ice on Mars was not unexpected. Previous observations by NASA's Odyssey spacecraft detected signs of ice just below the surface. Digging up the ice has been tricky, though, because the bright layer under the soil is too hard for Phoenix's scoop to penetrate, despite the blades attached to its front.

On 15 July, the team used a sort of drill called a rasp attached to the scoop to cut cores out of Snow White and collect the shavings in a compartment on the back side of the scoop. But the soil was too sticky to be used for experiment.

Meanwhile William Boynton's team, of the University of Arizona in Tucson, used the front of the scoop to collect the overlying soil, which is thought to be ice-free.

After weeks of struggling to scrape icy material from just below the surface of Mars, Phoenix's robotic arm scooped out a sample of dirt from a 5-centimetre deep trench called "Snow White", which it began digging in June. The soil was transferred to one of the lander's

A Spacecraft's Landing

Before landing, a spacecraft has to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere from space. The friction with the air heats the outside of the spacecraft so much that it glows red-hot. The shield at the base of the spacecraft enables it to withstand the intense heat.

positive. Matter and anti-matter annihilate each other when they collide and their mass is converted into pure energy.

Dark Matter

Scientists think it makes up the bulk of matter in the universe, but it can neither be seen nor detected directly using current technologies. Candidates range from light-weight neutrinos to invisible black holes.

Exoplanets

Until about the early 1990s, the only known planets in the universe were the familiar ones in our solar system. Astronomers have since identified more than 190 extrasolar planets (as of June 2006). They range from gargantuan gas worlds whose masses are just shy of being stars to small,



Helix Nebula

rocky ones orbiting dim, red dwarfs. Searches for a second Earth, however, have so far turned up empty.

Planets

The final definition of planets, as passed on 24 August 2006 is: "The IAU... resolves that planets and other bodies, except satellites, in our Solar System be defined into three distinct categories in the following way:

(1) A planet is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.

(2) A "dwarf planet" is a celestial body that

(a) is in orbit around the Sun,

(b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape,

(c) has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit, and

(d) is not a satellite.

(3) All other objects, except satellites orbiting the Sun shall be referred to as "Small Solar System Bodies".

In the Solar System, the inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

All the inner four planets are rocky bodies and are collectively called terrestrial planets. They appear to consist of a molten core and rock.

The outer planets are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. They are much larger than the inner planets and are collectively called gas giants. They appear to consist of a molten core and a thick atmosphere of hydrogen and helium.

Pluto is a dwarf planet. It is much smaller than the other planets and has a highly elliptical orbit.

The Earth

Our knowledge of the internal structure of the Earth is derived from studies of earthquakes. The shock waves sent out by an earthquake indicate the physical nature of the regions through which they pass.

Chemical Sub-division

CRUST:

- Oceanic - 7 km thick
- 0-0.5 km sediments
- 0.5-1 km - basalt
- 1-7 km gabbro

Continental:

- 35 km (av.) - 80 km (under Tibet)

thick

- 0-1 km sediments
- 1-35 km granite, gabbro

MANTLE >

- Upper 35- 670 km depth
- Lower 670-2900 km depth

CORE >

- Outer 2900-5170 km ()
- Inner 5170-6371 km (solid)

Mechanical Sub-division

Lithosphere: rigid outer shell fragmented into plates

Oceanic 0-65 km

Continental 0-120km
 Asthenosphere: 65 or 120 to 200 km
 molten plastic material
 Mesosphere: 200-2900 km; rigid
 400 km-
 670 km- no phase change below
 Outer Core: liquid
 (Transition: 4720-5170 km mushy)
 Inner Core: solid

Lithosphere

The lithosphere is the top crust of the Earth on which our continents and ocean basins rest. It is thickest in the continental regions where it has an average thickness of 40 km and thinnest in the oceans where it may have a maximum thickness of 10 to 12 km.

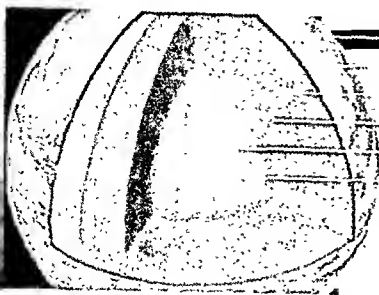
Mohorovic Discontinuity: An imaginary line that separates Mantle and Crust.

Gutenberg-Wiechert Discontinuity: A separation between the Mantle and the Core.

Lithosphere forms only 3/10 of the total surface of the Earth. The rest 7/10 is taken up by the oceans.

As we see it today, the topmost portion of the land surface is sand and soil except where rocky outcrops show. All the sand and much of the soil that we see have derived from ancient rocks.

The contours of the landscape are largely



Atmosphere > Nitrogen, Oxygen, Carbon-di-oxide

Crust > Oxygen, Silicon, Aluminium, Iron, Calcium, Sodium, Potassium, Magnesium

Upper Mantle > Plastic Magnesium, Iron, Aluminium, Silicon, Oxygen.

Lower Mantle > Olivine, Pyroxene, Feldspar, OC

Outer Core > Liquid Iron, Sulphur, Nickel, Oxygen.

Inner Core > Solid Iron, Nickel

Sources of internal heat

1. Residual heat of accumulation
2. Continued trickling of heavy metals through the mantle into the core
3. Radioactive decay of long-lived radio-active isotopes

Saturn

Diameter: 119,296 km.
Moons: 60.
Density: 0.69 g/cm cube
Average distance to the sun: 1,417.6 million km.
Time to orbit the sun: 29.46 years.
The second largest planet of the Solar System. Voyager found that the celebrated rings of the golden giant Saturn are composed of thousands of rippling, billowing bands of icy rock and dust. Just 200m thick and 270,000 km in diameter. The moon Titan has a nitrogen atmosphere and hydrocarbons—the necessities of life—but no signs of Titanites.

Annual Major Meteor Showers

Name	Dates of maximum	Hourly rate
Quadrantids	3-4 Jan	100
Lyrids	21-22 Apr	10
Eta Aquarids	5-6 May	35
Delta Aquarids	28-29 Jul	20
Perseids	12-13 Aug	75
Orionids	22 Oct	25
Taurids	4 Nov	10
Leonids	17-18 Nov	70
Geminids	13-14 Dec	75

Asteroids

A recent estimate is that there may be well over 40,000 asteroids orbiting the Sun.

Planet Names

The planets were named after the Roman gods:

Mercury god of commerce, eloquence, skill
Venus goddess of spring, bloom, beauty
Mars god of war
Jupiter ruler of gods and all men
Saturn god of agriculture
Uranus god of heavens
Neptune god of the sea

Sun

Diameter: 1,384,000 km.
Age: 4.5 billion years.
Planets: 8
 Dwarf planets: 4. Pluto, Charon, Eris, Ceres
Density: 1.41 g/cm cube
The gaseous sun may reach a temperature of 15.4°C million degrees Celsius at its core.

Diameter: 141,968 km.
Moons: 60. (4 large ones Gany-mede, Callisto, Io, Europa)
Density: 1.33 g/cm cube
Average distance to the sun: 772.8 million km.
Time to orbit the sun: 11.86 years.
Two Pioneer space probes photographed the Great Red Spot on the solar system's largest planet. Voyagers 1 and 2 later showed it is an enormous eddy in the turbulent cloud cover. They also spotted dusty rings, three new moons and volcanoes on the Moon, Io.

Mars

Diameter: 6,755.2 km.
Moons: 2. Phobos, Deimos
Density: 3.93 g/cm cube
Average distance to the Sun: 225.6 million km.
Time to orbit the sun: 687 days.

The Viking probes or path finders failed to find any sign of life. Beneath its thin atmosphere, Mars is barren, covered with pink soil and boulders. Long ago it was more active: the surface is marked with dormant volcanoes and deep chasms where water once freely flowed.

Earth

Diameter: 12,739.2 km.
Moons: 1
Density: 5.52 g/cm cube.
Average distance to the sun: 149.8 million km
Time to orbit the sun: 365.30 days.
Estimated Weight (mass) (\$ 940,000,000,000,000,000 metric tons)
Estimated Age: 4.5 billion years
Surface Area (\$10,066,000 sq km)
The only planet in the solar system to support life.

Venus

Diameter: 12,032 km
Moons: none
Density: 5.24 g/cm cube
Average distance to the sun: 107.52 million km
Time to orbit the sun: 224.70 days

Time to orbit the sun: 87.97 days.
Tiny Mercury, slightly larger than Earth's moon, races along its elliptical orbit at 176,000 km per hour—a speed that keeps it from being drawn into the sun's scorching hot and nights, Ingrid. It has the greatest temperature extremes, ranging from -200°C to 430°C. It's gravity is very weak (compared to Earth)

Mercury

Diameter: 4,849.6 km.
Moons: none.
Density: 5.43 g/cm cube
Average distance to the sun: 57.6 million km
Time to orbit the sun: 87.97 days.

Plate tectonics

Plate Tectonics tells us that it is not only the continents that are in motion, but the oceans as well. This is so, because the top crust of the Earth is not a complete single shell of granite and basalt, but a mosaic of several rigid segments, called plates. The theory of plate tectonics explains how the Earth's crust is moving in vast, rigid sections (plates) and is a modern revolution in our understanding of the planet. These plates include not only the Earth's solid upper crust, but also parts of the denser mantle below called Asthenosphere, and carry the continents and oceans on their backs like mammoth rafts. The plates with an average thickness of 100 km float on the Asthenosphere and move continuously against one another at a rate of upto 20 cm a year. Continents form only a part of the plates, the surrounding oceans form the rest of the plates. It is the plates containing both continents and oceans that move. The relation of inter-plate movement is defined by the type of plate margin: Constructive, Destructive or Conservative.

Constructive Plate movement is obvious in the Atlantic Ocean. At the mid-ocean ridge, new ocean floor is continuously being produced as the Americas move further apart from Europe and Africa.

Destructive Plate is found on all sides of Pacific Ocean, as the various plates slide down beneath the surrounding lithosphere.

Conservative Plate movement can cause the most destructive earthquakes. It arises where adjacent plates slide past one another along transform faults, such as the San Andreas fault.

Looking at the Continents

Name	Area sq kilometres	% of Earth's area	Population Estimate (million)
Asia	43 998 000	29.5	3879
Africa	29 800 000	20.0	877
N. America	21 510 000	16.3	501
S. America**	17 598 000	11.8	379
Europe	9 699 550	6.5	727
Australia *	7 699 000	5.2	32
Antarctica	13 600 000	9.6	uninhabited

* Australia with New Zealand, Tasmania, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, (Micronesian, Melanesian and Polynesian Islands) is called Australasia by some geographers while some others call it Oceania. ** Includes Caribbean countries

Oceans of the World

Pacific	166,241,000 sq km
Atlantic	86,557,000 sq km
Indian	73,427,000 sq km
Arctic	9,485,000 sq km

Continentwise Highest Point

Continent	Peak	Height(m)
Asia	Mt. Everest	8848
Africa	Kilimanjaro	5963
N. Am.	McKinley	6194
S. Am.	Aconcagua	6959
Europe	Mt. Elbrus	5633
Oceania	Puncak Jaya	4884
Antactica	Vinson Massif	4897

Continentwise Lowest Point

Continent	Peak	Depth(m)
Asia	Dead Sea	-396.8
Africa	Lake Assai	-156.1
N. Am.	Death Valley	-85.9
S. Am.	Valdes Penin	-39.9
Europe	Caspian Sea	-28.0
Oceania	Lake Eyre	-15.8

Luna 2

The first spacecraft to reach another world was the Russian space probe Luna 2. It crashed on the Moon on Sept.13, 1959.

conditioned by the rocky substructure of the lithosphere. Geologically speaking, all materials that make up the crust of the Earth are rocks, whether they are big granite boulders, combustible coal, soft clay or loose fragments of gravel or sand.

Rocks which form the substructure of the lithosphere may be broadly grouped into three classes:

- (i) Igneous rocks
- (ii) Sedimentary rocks and
- (iii) Metamorphic rocks.

We know that the face of the Earth, that is, its visible surface has undergone radical changes in the past. Geologists explain these changes as the consequence of the cooling and contraction of the Earth, through thousands of years. This explanation seemed quite unsatisfactory to a German scientist, Alfred Wegener (1880-1930).

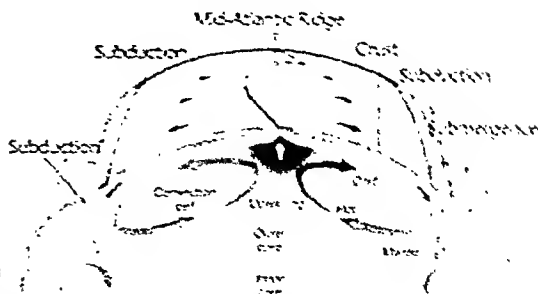
In 1915, Wegener published a book *The Origin of Continents and Oceans* in which he advanced the theory of Continental Drift. He theorised that the changes on the Earth surface were mainly due to the shifting of continents.

Continental Drift*

The theory of Continental Drift assumes that the continents plough through the oceans like massive ships.

A. 350 million years ago During the early carboniferous period large continental masses, Laurasia in the north, and Gondwanaland in the south, began drifting towards each other. Britain and much of western Europe lay in equatorial latitudes.

B. 200 million years ago in the late carboniferous period Laurasia and Gondwanaland collided, creating the super-continent Pangaea, (and a great ocean called Panthalassa) which remained



Depicts the currents in the Earth's interior which brings about deformity on the surface in terms of relief or subduction

largely intact until late Triassic times. A large gulf called Tethys opened up in the regions we now recognise as the Mediterranean and the Alpine-Himalayan mountain belts.

C. 50 million years ago During the Eocene period the fragmentation of Pangaea was well advanced and continents and oceans began to look as they do today. The Atlantic Ocean widened, the Tethys Ocean narrowed, while the Indian continents isolated and exposed to a northerly drift, was later to collide with the north Asia.

D. Present Day The northward movement of much of the Earth's continental masses continues. Changes since Eocene period include the continued growth of the Atlantic Ocean, the collision of the Indian continent with both Asian mass and the separation of Antarctica and Australia.

E. 50 million years ahead Scientists predict still further widening of the Atlantic Ocean with continued spreading of the Red Sea and an accompanying closure of the Persian Gulf. It seems likely that a new ocean could evolve in the East African rift system and that East Africa and Australia will drift to the position north of the Equator with Antarctica pushed more or less in South-pole.

Longest Rivers

Name	Country/ Continent	Length in kilometres
Nile	Africa	6650
Amazon	S. America	6437
Mississippi-Missouri	USA	6020
Yangtze Kiang	China	5494
Ob-Irtysh	Russia	5410
Zaire	Africa	4700
Lena	Russia	4400
Hwang Ho	China	4344
Mackenzie	Canada	4241
Mekong	Asia	4180
Niger	Africa	4180
St. Lawrence	Canada-USA	4023
Parana	S. America	4000
Yenisey	Russia	3804
Murray-Darling	Australia	3780
Volga	Russia	3690
Zambezi	Africa	3540
Maderia	S. America	3218
Purus	S. America	3200
Yukon-Teslin	Alaska-Canada	3185
Rio Grande	USA-Mexico	3040
Indus	Asia	2900
Brahmaputra (INDIA)	Asia	2900
Ganga	India	2510
Godawari	India	1450
Narmada	India	1290
Krishna	India	1290

Deep-sea Trenches

Name	Length	Depth	Deepest pt.
Mariana (W. Pacific)	2250	10 924	Challenger Deep
Tonga Kermadec (S. Pacific)	2575	10 850	Vityaz 11 (Tonga)
Kuri-Kamchatka (W. Pacific)	2250	10 542	
Philippine (W. Pacific)	1350	10 539	Galathea Deep
Java-Indian (Ocean)	2250	7725	Planet Deep

Units: Length in km and depth in metres

Famous Waterfalls

Name	Country	Drop (m)
Angel	Venezuela	807
Mongefossen	Norway	774
Kukenaam	Venezuela	610
Utigard	Norway	600
Ribbon	USA	491
King George VI	Guyana	487
Roraima	Guyana	457
Upper Yosemite	USA	435
Kalambo	Tanzania-Zambia	426
Gavarnie	France	421
Tugela	S. Africa	410
Takakkaw	Canada	365

Principal Peaks

Name	Country	Height (m)
Mt. Everest*	Nepal-Tibet	8848
Everest South Summit	—	8750
K2 (Mt. Godwin)	India (POK)	8611
Kanchenjunga	Nepal-India	8598
Dhaulagiri	Nepal	8167
Nanga Parbat (Diamir)	India	8126
Annapurna	Nepal	8091
Nanda Devi	India	7817
Mt. Kamet	India	7756
Salto Kangri	India	7742
Gurla Mandhata	Tibet	7728
Tirich Mir	Pakistan	7700
Minya Konka	China	7690
Saser Kangiri	India	7672
Muztagh Ata	China	7546
Mt. Communism	Tajikistan	7495
Badrinath Peak	India	7138
Chomo Lhari	India-Tibet	7100
Aconcagua	Argentina	6960
Ojos del Salado	Argentina-Chile	6885
Mercedario Huascaran	Peru	6768
Liullaillaco	Chile	6723
Volcano Tupungato	Chile-Argentina	6550
Sajama Volcano	Bolivia	6520
Illimani	Bolivia	6462
Vikanota	Peru	6300
Chimborazo	Ecuador	6267
Mt. McKinley	Alaska	6194
Cotopaxi	Ecuador	5897

Oceans' Greatest Depths

Mariana Trench, Pacific Ocean	10920m
Puerto Rico Trench, Atlantic Ocean	8605m
Java Trench, Indian Ocean	7125m
Arctic Basin, Arctic Ocean	5122m

Major Seas

South China	2,974,600 sq km
Caribbean	2,515,900 sq km
Mediterranean	2,510,000 sq km
Bering	2,261,100 sq km
Gulf of Mexico	1,507,600 sq km
Sea of Okhotsk	1,392,100 sq km
Sea of Japan, or East Sea	1,012,900 sq km
Hudson Bay	730,100 sq km
East China	664,600 sq km
Andaman	564,900 sq km
Black	507,900 sq km
Red	453,000 sq km

Major Lakes

Caspian Sea, Asia-Europe	371,000 sq km
Superior, North America	82,100 sq km
Victoria, Africa	69,500 sq km
Huron, North America	59,600 sq km
Michigan, North America	57,800 sq km
Tanganyika, Africa	32,900 sq km
Baikal, Asia	31,500 sq km
Great Bear, North America	31,300 sq km
Aral Sea, Asia	30,700 sq km
Malawi, Africa	28,900 sq km
Great Slave, Canada	28,568 sq km
Erie, North America	25,667 sq km
Winnipeg, Canada	24,387 sq km
Ontario, North America	19,529 sq km
Balkhash, Kazakhstan	18,300 sq km

Deepest Lakes

Baikal, Russian Fed.	1620m
Tanganyika, Africa	1463m
Caspian Sea, Asia-Europe	1025m
Malawi or Nyasa, Africa	706m
Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan	702m

Deepest Caves

Name	Location	Max. depth
Resseau du Fo	France	1455
Resseau de la Pierre St Etienne		1325
Snezhnaya, Caucasus	Russia	1250
Sistema Huastla	Mexico	1200

Wettest Inhabited Places

Eugene, Ore., Colombia	6000
Monrovia, Liberia	5000
Pago Pago, American Samoa	4000
Moulmein, Burma (Myanmar)	4000
Lee, Papua New Guinea	4000
Bogoro, Philippines	4000
Sylhet, Bangladesh	4000

Largest Deserts of the World**Subtropical**

Sahara, North Africa	9,064,450 sq km
Arabian, Middle East	2,552,500 sq km
Great Victoria, Australia	642,475 sq km
Kalahari, Southern Africa	552,722 sq km
Chihuahuan, Mexico	453,232 sq km
Thar, India/Pakistan	453,232 sq km
Great Sandy, Australia	355,455 sq km
Gibson, Australia	310,765 sq km
Sonoran, S.W. USA	310,765 sq km
Simpson/Stony, N. Africa	145,034 sq km
Mohave, S.W. USA	139,854 sq km

Cool Coastal

Atacama, Chile SA	139,854 sq km
Namib, S.W. Africa	33,668 sq km

Cold Winter

Gobi, China	1,294,950 sq km
Patagonian, Argentina	673,374 sq km
Great Basin, S.W. USA	492,081 sq km
Kara-Kum, West Asia	349,636 sq km
Colorado, Western USA, also called the Painted Desert	336,687 sq km
Kyzyl-Kum, West Asia	297,838 sq km
Taklamakan, China	

Locations

(place)	Deaths (approx)
Mount Vesuvius, Italy	16000
Indonesia	10,000
Mount Fuji, Japan	14,500
Mount Merapi, Indonesia	10,000
Mount Pinatubo, Philippines	36,000
Mount St. Helens, USA	28,000
Mount Pelee, Martinique	57
Mount St. Helens, USA	1880
Mount Chichon, Mexico	23000
Mount Nevado del Ruiz, Columbia	1700
Mount Lake Nyos, Cameroon	800
Mount Mt Pinatubo, Philippines	

Ring of Fire

The hundreds of active volcanoes found on the land near the edges of the Pacific Ocean make up what is called the Ring of Fire. They mark the boundary between the plates under the Pacific Ocean and the plates under the continents around the ocean.

The Ring of Fire runs all along the west coast of South and North America, from the southern tip of Chile to Alaska. The ring also runs down the east coast of Asia starting in the far north in Kamchatka. It extends down past Australia.

Seasons

The earth's axis is inclined at an angle of $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ to the plane of its orbit. As a result of this, the earth is in different positions while revolving around the sun. During the first half of the year the northern hemisphere tilts towards the sun resulting in the season of summer in the region. During the second half of the year the southern hemisphere tilts towards the sun, and thus experiences summer and

the northern hemisphere experiences winter during this period.

The four seasons

(a) *Spring* When the sun is directly overhead the equator (b) *Summer* When the sun is directly over the tropic of Cancer—the North Temperate Zone experiences summer. (c) *Autumn* When the sun returns to the equator, the North Temperate Zone experiences the season of autumn. (d) *Winter* The sun is at the tropic of Capricorn and the north temperate zone experiences winter.

Equinoxes are dates when the night and days are equal. During these days the sun shines directly over the equator. March 21 is called vernal equinox and September 23 is called autumnal equinox.

Solstice The time of the year when the difference between the length of days and nights is the largest is called as solstice.

On or around June 21, the North Pole tilts towards the sun and the sun is directly over the tropic of Cancer called summer solstice. On or around December 22, the earth is at the opposite

Structure of the Atmosphere

1. Troposphere	0-10 km (poles) 0-16 km (equator)
Tropopause	10 (poles), 16 (equator)
2. Stratosphere	10-16 to 50 km
Stratopause	50 km
3. Mesosphere	50-85 km
Mesopause	85 km
4. Thermosphere	85 km +
	- Ionosphere
	- Exosphere

Kilimanjaro	Tanzania	5895
Mt. Elbrus	Georgia	5642
Mt. Blanc	France-Italy	4807
Matterhorn	Switzerland	4478
Mt. Cook	New Zealand	3764

(Continued from page 10) ... The dormant volcano Mauna Kea (on Big Island of Hawaii) could be considered the tallest mountain in the world if one measures it from its base in the Hawaiian Trough (3280 fathoms deep) to its summit, it reaches a height of 10,203m (4205m above the mid)

Hottest, Coldest, Driest, Wettest

Hottest Place Dallol, Denakil Depression, Ethiopia, annual average temp. 34.4°C • **Coldest Place** Plateau Station, Antarctica, annual average temp. -56.7°C • **Wettest Place** Mawsynram, Meghalaya 1187 cm 74-yr. av.; (Mt. Waialeale, Hawaii Is., 1168

cm, 32-yr. av.) annual average rainfall • **Driest Place** Africa, Atacama Desert, Chile, (no rain for 14 consecutive years) 0.08cm.

World's Largest Islands

Name	Area sq km	Location
Australia*	7 682 300	Indian Ocean
Greenland	2 175 600	Arctic Ocean
New Guinea	792 500	W Pacific
Borneo	725 545	Indian Ocean
Malagasy Rep.	587 000	Indian Ocean
Baffin Island	476 065	Arctic Ocean
Sumatra	427 300	Indian Ocean
Honshu	227 400	NW Pacific
Great Britain	218 041	N Atlantic
Victoria Island	217 300	Arctic Ocean
Elismere Island	196 236	Arctic Ocean
Celebes	189 035	Indian Ocean

* Geographically regarded as a continental land mass

Earth Movements

The earthquakes in India are due to the drifting of the so-called Indian Plate. Scientists divide the globe into a number of major tectonic plates that drift very slowly. As these plates slide against each other a tremendous amount of energy is released causing heavy destruction.

Earthquake

There was a time - some 225 million years ago - when the continents were not separated by oceans. The earth's surface knew only one massive continent, called Panagea. The some 200 million years ago, Panagea split into two major continents, one of them Gondwana-land (which contains Africa, South America, India and Australia). Gondwanaland continued to split into smaller land masses, one of them is the Indian plate. It drifted at a speed of 9 metres per century towards the Eurasian plate. Where these giant plates met under enormous pressure, the

Himalayans were formed.

Types: Natural Earthquakes caused by endogenic forces. (i) Volcanic-caused due to volcanic eruptions, e.g., Mt Etna. (ii) Tectonic- caused due to stress and strain along Earth's plates or dislodging of rocks during faulting. (iii) Isostatic- caused by isostatic imbalance due to sudden geological activity at a regional scale. (iv) Plutonic- earthquakes originating deep inside the earth between 250 to 650 km deep.

How Earthquakes Occur? There many fault-lines in the Earth's crust. A fault is where blocks of crust on either side are moving relative to one another. The typical average rate is around a millimetre per year. If this movement continues gradually it would pose no problem for people living near by. But if the movement does not behave that way, for decades or centuries it builds up to a critical level, and then

Volcanic eruptions

Year	Volcano (place)	Deaths (approx)
79 AD	Mt. Vesuvius , Italy	16000
1586	Kelut, Indonesia	10,000
1792	Mt. Unzen, Japan	14,500
1815	Tambora, Indonesia	10,000
1883	Krakatoa, Indonesia	36,000
1902	Mt. Pelee, Martinique	28,000
1980	Mt. St. Helens, USA	57
1982	El Chichon, Mexico	1880
1985	Nevado del Ruiz, Columbia	23000
1986	Lake Nyos, Cameroon	1700
1991	Mt. Mt Pinatubo, Philipines	800

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4. Thermosphere	85 km + - Ionosphere - Exosphere

of its orbit, as a result, the South Pole tilts towards the sun and the North Pole away from it. This is called winter solstice.

Eclipses When the light of the sun or the moon is obscured by another body the sun or moon is said to be in eclipse.

Lunar Eclipse When the earth comes between the moon and the sun, the shadow cast by the earth on the moon results in a lunar eclipse. Lunar eclipse occurs only on a full moon day but not on every full moon day.

Solar Eclipse When the moon comes between the sun and the earth, it causes obstruction of the sun's light when viewed from the earth and is called solar eclipse.

A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the moon is in line with the sun. However, solar eclipse does not occur on every new moon day.

Midnight Sun

In the Arctic and Antarctic region around mid-summer when the sun sets, the sun does not go below the horizon throughout the 24 hours. The sun may be seen at midnight too. This is due to the inclination of earth's axis to the plane of orbit. Norway is called the land of midnight sun, seen between May and July. In the Southern hemisphere, the phenomenon is seen in Antarctica.

Atmosphere

The atmosphere is an insulating blanket protecting the Earth. It softens the intense light and heat of the Sun. Its Ozone (O_3) layer absorbs most of the very deleterious ultraviolet rays from the Sun and thus protects living organisms from extinction.

The atmosphere is bound to the Earth by gravity. Satellites like the Moon, which have very low gravitational power, cannot and do not hold an atmosphere.

Air pressure simply means the weight of the entire air column over a given point. Air, of course, has very little weight. A litre of air weighs around 1.3 g. At the sea level, the air pressure is 1033.6 g per sq. cm. This pressure is usually described as one atmosphere.

Clouds

Clouds are made of water vapour that has evaporated from the Earth. They are very tiny droplets of microscopic size and are too light to fall down as rain. So they ride on the air waves until they condense and then fall down as rain.

Ozone layer

According to 2006 Reports of two UN agencies, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the earth's ozone

Composition of Atmosphere

Gases	Concentration	Period
N_2	(0.780)	$4 \cdot 10^4$ yrs for cycling through sediments
O_2	(0.209)	6000 yrs for cycling through biosphere
H_2O Ar	(4 to 0.004×10^{-3}) (9.34×10^{-3})	— largely accumulating
CO_2	(0.364×10^{-3})	10 yrs for cycling through biosphere
He	(5.24×10^{-6}) 2×10^6 yrs for	escape

* Concentrations, by volume of components at ground level (excluding local pollution and their individual variations)

layer is finally on the mend after decades of damage, i.e., recovering more slowly than experts had hoped. Over huge areas of Europe, North America and Asia in the northern hemisphere and over southern Australasia, Latin America and Africa, the layer would be back to pre-1980 levels by 2049. Over Antarctica, where so-called "ozone holes" have grown over the past 30 years, recovery was likely to be delayed until 2065. The good news is that the level of ozone-depleting substances continues to decline from its 1992-94 peak in the troposphere and the 1990s peak in the stratosphere. The earth's atmosphere is enveloped by different layers but in the stratosphere it is covered by ozone gas. (Stratosphere extends from 12 km to 30 km above the Earth). Ozone has three oxygen atoms while oxygen has two. Ozone protects mankind from harmful radiation called ultraviolet (UV) rays from the Sun. The UV light from the Sun causes reaction leading to making and breaking of ozone oxygen. The ozone layer absorbs potentially harmful UV radiation from the Sun (at wavelengths between 240 and 320 nm). The main destroyers of the ozone are the CFCs (Chloro-fluorohydro-carbons) (from air conditioners, refrigerators, aerosols, solvents and in production of some types of packaging) and nitrogen oxides from fertilisers and aircraft emissions occurring high in the troposphere (which rise up into the stratosphere) where they are broken by UV light into chlorine (which has a very devastating effect on the ozone). One atom of chlorine can destroy over

100,000 molecules of ozone. Depletion of the ozone layer will allow UV light the undesirable wavelengths to penetrate the atmosphere and reach Earth's surface. This causes skin cancer, severe sunburn, cataracts, damage vegetation, crop yield and sea life, among other things.

Winds

It is the air in motion. What causes the wind is the pressure gradient, it always flows from high pressure area to low pressure area. Due to the Earth's rotation the wind direction changes suddenly due to deflection. In the northern hemisphere the wind is deflected to the right and in the southern hemisphere to the left. This phenomenon is called the Ferrel's Law. The force acting behind it is Coriolis force.

Types of Winds (i) Planetary winds are those that occur at the global scale such as the trade winds, westerlies (Roaring Forties, Furious Fifties, Shrieking Sixties), doldrums, tropical cyclones - in India, (Typhoon-Philippines, Japan, China; Hurricane-USA, West Indies; Willies - Australia), etc.

(ii) Periodic winds are those that occur at certain times during some season at specific locations, like monsoon.

(iii) Local winds develop as a result of local conditions in temperature, pressure, continentality, altitude, etc. Some examples are Tornado (velocity of >300km/hr, found in Mississippi basin-USA, Sahara-Africa; Loo in NW India and Pakistan; Mistral- originates on Alps and blows down on Mediterranean Sea; Chinook & Foehn- warm dry wind on the leeward side in USA and Switzerland).

One in a Million

A female cod may lay more than 6 million eggs at each breeding session, but only one or two will grow into adults. A ling fish, a relative of the cod, once yielded 28 million eggs.

of its orbit, as a result, the South Pole tilts towards the sun and the North Pole away from it. This is called winter solstice.

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CO_2	(0.36 $\times 10^{-3}$)	10 yrs for cycling through biosphere
He	(5.24 $\times 10^{-5}$)	2 $\times 10^6$ yrs for escape

* Concentration, by volume, of components at ground level (excluding local pollution, and their production rates).

A Telescope

In 1608, Sir Isaac Newton invented the reflector telescope. Whereas in a refractor telescope, light is gathered by a large objective lens, in a reflector telescope a large curved mirror is used. There are land based and space based telescopes. The Great Canary Telescope is the world's largest, set at 2400 mts in Canary Islands.



flow seasonally. If this criterion of seasonal reversal is applied strictly, then only a few regions of the world have monsoonal wind system. It is in Asia that monsoonal circulation is found in the ideal form. USA, Northern Australia, West Africa also has monsoon-like experiences.

Indian Monsoon The monsoon in the truest sense is observed only around the Indian Ocean. The centres of action, air masses, and the dynamics of Indian monsoon are completely different from the rest of the world monsoon systems. The peninsular shape of the country has its role, as it divides the SW monsoon flanks to the north as the Arabian Sea branch and to the east as Bay of Bengal branch.

Rain: When the SW Monsoon brings about 1 metre of average rainfall over the plains of the country as a whole, it is called normal. But there are many places such as the windward side of the Western Ghats which receive between an average of 100-250 cm of rain. At Mahabaleshwar the rainfall amounts to 650 cm and

Mawsynram, on the southern slopes of Khasi-Jaintia Hills, has the unique distinction of receiving average precipitation of 965 cm, in the world.

Peculiarities of Indian monsoon are: (a) tropical location of the Indian sub-continent, (b) Himalayas—the mountain barrier to the north of the landmass, cold and dry air-mass from the Central Asian high pressure zone. It not only blocks the SW wind from crossing over to the Tibetan plateau but allows it to spread in the north Indian belt. (c) monsoon is controlled by high and low pressure centres developed over northwestern region of the Indian sub-continent. It is in summer due to intense heating the high temperature (about 40 - 45°C) steepens pressure gradient over the (e) extreme low pressure points (the low of upto 700 mb) that develop in NW region, actively attract the pre-monsoon wind from the Indian Ocean, (f) monsoon bursts over India with big turbulence Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone to the northern plains (about 30°N) at its peak monsoon derives its energy from series of atmospheric disturbances that have their origin in the equatorial zone of different air masses, starts by 20th May and covers the country by July 15th, (i) monsoon starts (also called NE monsoon) by Oct. 1st, and completes by end of November, (k) Retreating monsoon is also accompanied by cyclones, causing loss to life and property along the coast of India.

A Robot that Pours Beer

A robot that can open bottles and pour beer has been developed by researchers. The robot called Mr. Asahi is no immediate threat to the 000 to make.

respectively; Hamattan- warm dry wind blowing from NE and E to W in E Sahara (similar winds are Brise-Estier- Australia, Blackoller-USA, Shamal- in Iraq and Persian gulf, Norwester- in New Zealand); Sirocco- warm dry dusty wind blowing northwards from Sahara reaching Italy, Spain, etc. Similar winds are Khamsin- Egypt, Ghib in Libya, Chilli in Tunisia, Simoon in Arabian desert, Bora- cold dry northeasterly wind blowing in Adriatic sea; Blizzard- violent, stormy, cold and powdery polar wind laden with dry snow in Siberia, Canada and USA; Föhn- strong laden cold wind in Russian Tundra; Bora- cold wind in France; Lavanter- strong easterly cold wind in Spain; Pampero- cold wind in Argentina's Pampas grasslands. Santa Ana- warm dry wind in USA; Tramontana- warm wind in central Europe; Yama- warm dry wind in Japan; and Zonda- warm wind in Argentina.

(iv) Atmospheric disturbances are caused by conditions like El Niño, La Niña, jetstreams (high speed wind blowing in the upper atmosphere over mid-latitudes from west).

Hurricanes

For every year, there is a pre-approved list of names for tropical storms and hurricanes. These lists are generated by the National Hurricane Center (since 1953). Since 1979, the names-list alternate between male and female. Hurricanes are named alphabetically from the list in chronological order. Thus the first tropical storm or hurricane of the year has a name that begins with 'A' and the second is given the name that begins with 'B.'

The lists contain names that begin from A to W, but exclude names that begin with a 'Q' or 'U'. There are six lists that continue to rotate. The lists only change when there is a hurricane that is so devastating, the name is retired and another name replaces it.

El Niño

El Niño is a regularly occurring climatic feature which is a "season" of warm water sloshing back and forth in the Pacific Ocean between the coast of South America and Indonesia. Usually the warm water of El Niño remains off the coast of South America for about four years and then makes its way slowly across the Pacific, back to Indonesia for another four years. Peruvian fishermen noticed that the arrival of El Niño coincided with the Christmas season so named the phenomenon after the 'the baby boy' Jesus. Scientists refer to the event when warm water is in the opposite side of the ocean near Indonesia as La Niña or "the baby girl." Slow tiny waves move the warm water across the ocean during the cycle.

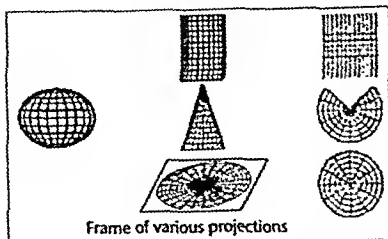
El Niño increases average ocean surface water temperature which causes climatic change around the world. Effects of El Niño are felt as far away from the Indian subcontinent and Pacific Ocean as Eastern Africa (there is often reduced rainfall and thus Nile River carries less water).

What is Monsoon?

In the secondary atmospheric circulation, Monsoon in itself is considered a phenomenon. Monsoon is attached to such an atmospheric circulation which reverses its

The Worm that is a Lizard

The name slow-worm is misleading. It is not a worm, but a variety of lizard, a lizard without legs. It is not particularly slow either.



that drives the choice of a projection is the compatibility of geographic information (data set).

Accordingly a model of the earth is chosen. There are different models which assign slightly different coordinates to the same location, so it is important that the model be known and that chosen projection be compatible with that model. On small areas (large scale) data compatibility issues are more important since metric distortions are minimal at this level. In very large areas (small scale), on the other hand, distortion is a more important factor to consider. In understanding the concept of a map projection it will help to imagine a globe with a light source placed at a (or some) definite point with respect to it, projecting features (latitude and longitudes) of the globe onto a surface. This wireframe or grid is called graticule.

Choosing a surface

A surface that can be unfolded or unrolled into a flat plane or sheet without stretching, tearing or shrinking is called a 'developable surface'. The cylinder, cone and of course the plane are all developable surfaces. The sphere and ellipsoid are not developable surfaces. Any projection that attempts to project a sphere (or an ellipsoid) on a flat sheet will have to distort the image (similar to the impossibility of making a flat sheet from an orange peel).

Most map projections, both practically and theoretically, are not "projec-

tions" in any physical sense.

Steps for Creating a Projection

(i) Selection of a model for the shape of the earth (between a sphere or ellipsoid)

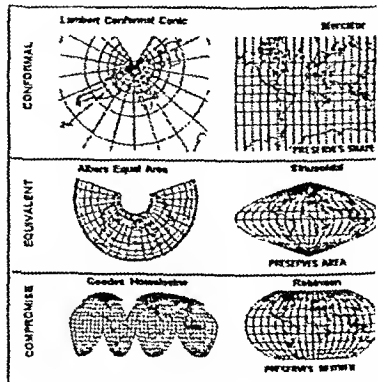
(ii) Transformation of geographic coordinates (longitude/latitude) to plane coordinates (eastings/northings or x,y)

(iii) Reduction of the scale

Because the real earth's shape is irregular, a lot of information is lost in the first step, in which an approximating regular model is chosen. Reducing the scale may be considered to be part of transforming geographic coordinates to plane coordinates. Sometimes they depend on mathematical formulae which have no direct bearing or physical interpretation.

Types of Projections

A fundamental projection classification is based on type of projection surface onto which the globe is conceptually projected. The projections are described in terms of placing a gigantic surface in contact with the earth, followed by an implied scaling operation. These surfaces are cylindrical (e.g., Mercator), conical (e.g., Albers), and azimuthal or planar (e.g., stereographic). Many mathematical



Maps and Projections

Modern theories on the formation of the Earth and other planets are based on the Copernican theory.

Globe

A globe is a small model of Earth, shaped oblate spheroid - flattened at the top and bottom and bulging in the middle.

Grids: In order to represent the Earth accurately, a grid of imaginary lines with equal interval is prepared. Imaginary lines that run north and south around the globe, from one pole to the other, are called meridians/longitudes. They inform us the degree of longitude, or how far east or west a place is from an imaginary line called the Greenwich meridian or prime meridian (0 degree). 180 degree is called the International Date Line crossing which a date changes.

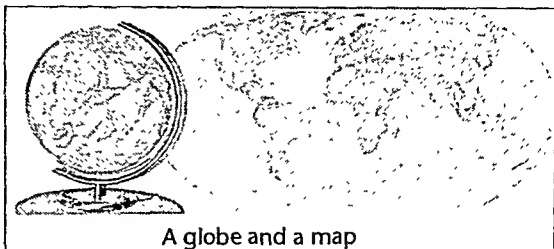
The angular distance of a place on the earth's surface northward or southward from the equator is called the parallels of latitude. It is measured in degrees. Often it is described as latitude, imaginary lines encircling the earth at regular interval. Equator is at 0° , the Tropic of Cancer at 23.5° N. and Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5° S. Moving farther north or south, the latitude increases. The North Pole is at 90° north latitude. The South Pole is at 90° south latitude.

Map

A map is a representation usually of a portion of earth showing geographical, political or other features on a plane surface.

Uses: Compared to globes, maps are

compact and easier to store; accommodate an enormous range of scales; viewed easily on computer displays; facilitate measuring properties of the ter-



A globe and a map

rain being mapped; show larger portions of the earth's surface at once; and they are cheaper to produce and transport. These useful traits of flat maps motivate the development of map projections.

Projections

A map projection is any method used in cartography to represent the two-dimensional curved surface of the earth or other body on a plane.

When the features on a spherical surface is transferred on to a plane surface lot of its factors suffer distortion. Therefore, map projections are done carefully to preserve one or some of these properties - Area, Shape, Direction, Bearing, Distance and Scale, though not all of them simultaneously. Each projection preserves or compromises or approximates basic metric properties in different ways. Since many purposes for maps, so do many projections upon which to construct them. The purpose of the map, also, determines which projection should be used for the map. Another



Sinusoidal Projection



Gnomonic Projection



scale are the same throughout the map, creating an equal-area map. On the map, as in reality, the length of each parallel is proportional to the cosine of the latitude. Thus the shape of the map for the whole earth is the area between two symmetric rotated cosine curves.

Azimuthal

An azimuthal projection shows distances and directions accurately from the centre point, but distorts shapes and sizes elsewhere. Azimuthal projections have the property that directions from a central point are preserved (and hence, great

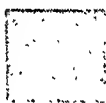
circles through the central point are represented by straight lines on the map).

Gnomonic

The gnomonic projection displays great circles as straight lines. Can be constructed by using a point of perspective at the centre of the Earth.

Orthographic

The orthographic projection maps each point on the earth to the closest point on the plane. Can be constructed from a point of perspective an infinite distance from the tangent point.



Global Warming



Global warming is an average increase in the Earth's temperature due to greenhouse effect as a result of both natural and human activities. In common usage, "global warming" often refers to the warming that can occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities. e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, watervapour, and fluorinated gases, which act like a greenhouse around the earth, trapping the heat from the sun into the earth's atmosphere and increasing the Earth's temperature. Climate change refers to any significant changes in climate through, temperature, precipitation, wind, etc. for an extended period (decades or longer) as a result of natural processes (e.g., sun's intensity, ocean circulation), and human activities causing changes in

the atmosphere's composition through e.g., burning fossil fuels and deforestation.

The term climate change is often used interchangeably with the term global warming. Unprecedentedly catastrophic recent climatic anomalies are clearly global warnings through blazing hot summers, brutal winters, hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones from North America to Africa and from Asia to Europe. It is now considered by the overwhelming majority of scientists that global warming is the most important threat to humanity! It is becoming more apparent that humanity may be facing more drastic problems in the near future as a result of global warming which will be unavoidable unless great measures are taken very soon.

The Moon

The Moon is the only satellite of the Earth. But it is a satellite of distinction. For, it is the only satellite in the Solar System far too big to be a satellite. All other satellites have sizes below 1/8 the size of mother planets. But the Moon is about 1/4 the size of its mother planet, the Earth.

The Moon's craters range in size from 1000 kms in diameter to a few metres across, are caused by meteors. The Moon has high sharp-peaked mountains, many of them rising to 6000 m. The highest of these are Liebnitz Mountains, in the south pole, is 10,660 m—higher than Mt Everest.

The Moon along with the Sun causes tides (neap and Spring) on earth. The Moon, being nearer to the Earth than the Sun, exerts a greater influence on the tides. It takes only 1.3 seconds for moonlight to reach the Earth, whereas sunlight takes as

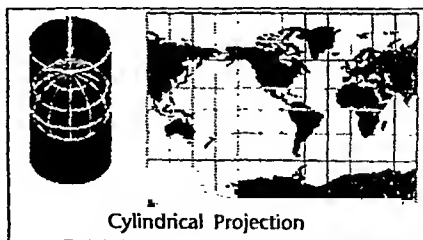
much as 8 minutes 16.6 seconds to reach us. This being so, the ratio of lunar and solar power for tide-raising is 11 to 5.

The oldest rocks and soil samples from the Moon are about the same age as the Earth (about 4,600 million years old). The rocks from the maria turned out to be basaltic lava, similar to volcanic rocks found on the Earth. While terrestrial igneous rocks contained only about 1% of titanium, the lunar rocks showed 10 times as much. A few minerals unknown on Earth were found in the mare (dark areas on the Moon basalts). Among these is Armalcolite. The lunar rocks were bone-dry, with no trace of water in any form and no trace of any organic matter. So also, volatile elements (elements with low boiling points) like Sodium, Potassium, Chlorine, Germanium, Lead and Mercury were practically non-existent.

cal projections, however, do not neatly fit into any of these three conceptual projection methods.

Another way to classify projections is through the properties they preserve despite projection. Some of the more common categories are: (i) Preserving direction (azimuthal), a trait possible only from one or two points to every other point (ii) Preserving shape locally (conformal or orthomorphic) (iii) Preserving area (equal-area or equivalent or authalic) (iv) Preserving distance (equidistant), a trait possible only between one or two points and every other point (v) Preserving shortest route, a trait preserved only by the gnomonic projection

Note: Because the sphere is not a developable surface, it is impossible to construct a map projection that is both equal-area and conformal.



Cylindrical Projection

Cylindrical

The term "cylindrical projection" is used to refer to any projection in which meridians are mapped to equally spaced vertical lines and circles of latitude (parallels) are mapped to horizontal lines.

Cylindrical projections map the whole Earth as a finite rectangle; Cylindrical projections have the same east-west stretching away from the equator;

Sinusoidal

The north-south scale and the east-west

task of environmental management has come to be even more contested and even more challenged. Protests against environmental degradation have grown. But so have efforts to deny environmental concerns or to dilute regulations. This is mostly because we as a society have not internalised how environment can become the instrument of economic change.

The fact is that in this country, people live on the environment; their livelihood depends on the resources they get from their immediate environment. Their protest should make us think again of this development, which can make such poor people even poorer. The problem also is that when regulatory institutions are disabled, people have no choice but to insist that their voice is heard. This spirals out of control as neglect breeds violence and violence breeds more intolerance. This is not good for the environment. It is certainly bad for the country.

We must also understand that it is in the nature of environmental protection, which we have inherited from the already rich world, to first pollute and then clean up. But we do not realise that the already rich world is finding that it is investing more and more in cleaning up and fixing the damage but it stays miles behind the new problems it creates. So, it cleans up its local air pollution by improving on its vehicle and fuel technology but it soon finds that the pollutant it had fixed as mutated into another. For instance, even as the western world cleaned up suspended particulate matter pollution,

science discovered the problem was not particulates as a whole, but those that were tiny and respirable, capable of penetrating the lungs and the circulatory system. So they invested reduced sulfur in diesel and found ways of trapping the particulates in vehicles. It believed new-generation technology had overcome the challenge. But as technology reduces mass of particles, the size will become so tiny that they can penetrate the human skin.

Sharing the world

The icing on the cake is a hard fact: the industrialized world may have cleaned up its cities but its emissions have put the entire world's climatic system at risk and made millions, living at the margin of survival, even more vulnerable and poor because of climate change. Between 1990 and 2005 - the period when industrialised countries agreed to reduce emissions under the Kyoto Protocol - transport related carbon dioxide emissions actually increased by 28 per cent. Their strategy for environment protection is costing us the Earth.

Years before India became Independent, Mahatma Gandhi was asked a simple question: would he like free India to be as developed as the country of its colonial masters? Britain? "No", said Gandhi, stunning his interrogator who argued that Britain was the model to emulate. He replied: "If it took Britain the rape of half the world to be where it is, how many worlds would India need?"

We need to learn our Gandhi today. Now that India and China are threaten

The First Great Woman Scientist

The first woman to achieve great fame in science was Marie Curie, who identified radium in 1898. She later extracted less than a gram of radium metal from several tons of ore. Curie died of leukaemia in 1934.

The Year of Environment

Sunita Narain

Director, Centre for Science and Environment

This is the age of environment. I say this because environmental concerns - domestic and global - are defining the way of our economy and our everyday life. We know that the world is battling different but linked developments. The oil price is rising every week, crippling economic growth, as we know it and forcing governments to look for new answers to conservation. Then, prices of food are sky-rocketing, which in turn is leading to conflict in poor countries, dependent on imports. Added to these two pains is the beginning signs of climate change in many parts of the world, in the form of intensified tropical cyclones, variable and extreme weather events like heavy rains leading to floods, bitter cold spells and frost that fails crops.

Growing Biofuels

The world search for answers is leading to new problems. The rising price of oil (and its politics of ownership) is leading governments to discuss the imperative of national energy security. Climate change is forcing the same issue by demanding alternatives to fossil fuel use. The answer from both fronts has been to subsidise the growing of biofuels - ethanol from maize and sugarcane and biodiesel from edible oil crops. The scale and pace of this change are phenomenal. In the last few years, the US alone has diverted about 20

per cent of its maize crop to biodiesel, and so the price of maize has increased by 60 per cent. Similarly, a European Union mandate, of a 6 per cent use of biofuel in the transport sector by 2010, is diverting land from food to fuel and increasing volatility of the prices of oilseeds and their substitutes.

It is important to unpack this inter-play. In part, the price of wheat has increased because now it is also used as a feed, substituting now-expensive maize. In part, the increase is climate-related; drought in Australia and other weather-related events have brought world wheat stocks to a never-before low. The price of rice - the food staple of millions in our region - too, has increased, because of bad weather in many countries and urbanisation that has gobbled acreage.

Even as these events play out on the world stage and impact our growth there is the old challenge of environmental degradation in our world. In the country we have intensified our growth and this has led to huge environmental fallouts - growing pollution, toxification, land degradation and most of all widespread protests of local affected communities. Let us be clear, India has a million plus mutinies - over dam projects, forest degradation, mining, industrial pollution - in its cities and villages, which need to be heard and heeded. We know that the

Super Rice in the Making

Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping is working on a type of hybrid 'super rice' that boasts a unit output of 13.5 tonnes per hectare by 2010. Earlier he bred a rice strain that could produce 12 tonnes from a hectare.

he answer itself.

The case of water management is the same. India and China cannot afford to first become water-wasteful and then efficient. They cannot afford to pollute and then clean up. They have to invent the water management paradigm in India's case, borrow from past traditions by building millions of local and decentralised water management structures to augment its resources. It must practise rainwater harvesting as it will build its water reserves. At the same time, it must borrow from the future by investing in water-efficient technologies for recycling and reuse. It must, for instance, reinvent the flush system, which is both capital- and material-intensive and uses water as its carrier and discharge pathway: it cannot afford to build sewage networks and treat human waste, today polluting its rivers and lakes.

The question, then, is if all this is possible. The fact is that the environmental movements of the rich world happened after the period of wealth creation and during the period of waste generation. They argued for containment of the waste but did not have the ability to argue for

the reinvention of the paradigm of waste generation itself.

On the other hand, in our world, the environmental movement is growing during the period of wealth creation, in the midst of enormous inequity and poverty. In this environmentalism of the relatively poor, the answers to change are intractable and impossible, unless the question is reinvented.

But there are two essential pre-requisites. Firstly, a high order of democracy, so that the poor and marginalised can demand change. Secondly, change will demand knowledge: new and inventive thinking. The most adverse impact of the current industrial growth model is that it has turned our planners into cabbages: believing they have no answers; only problems, for which the solutions lie in the tried and tested answers of the rich world.

It is here that the rich world must learn its Gandhi. It must learn that it cannot preach because it has nothing to teach. But it can learn if it follows the environmentalism of the poor, to share the earth's resources so that there is a common future for all.

Kyoto Protocol

The amendment to the treaty on United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, called Kyoto Protocol, aims at cutting global emis-

sions of Green House Gases (GHG). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted an average global rise in temperature of 1.4°C to

Breathing without Oxygen

A microbe colony in the hot springs of Mono Lake, uses arsenic, toxic to most life forms, instead of oxygen for photosynthesis.

ing to join the league of the rich, there is growing hysteria. What will be the impact on the environment of Indian and Chinese joining the world's consuming classes? What if every Chinese owns a car? Every Indian owns a refrigerator?

But this should make the rich world think. Think not just about the impact of our populated nations on the resources of our planet. But think, again, indeed all over again of the economic paradigm of growth that has led to much less populated worlds pillaging and degrading the resources of this only Earth.

It is this model of growth the poor world now wishes to adopt. And why not? The world has not shown any other way that can work. In fact, it preaches to us that business is profitable only when it searches for new solutions to old problems. It tells us its way of wealth creation is progress and it tells us that its way of life is non-negotiable.

But I believe the poor world must do better. India, China have no choice but to reinvent the development trajectory. When the industrialized world went through its intensive growth period its per capita income was much higher than the South's is today. The price of oil was much lower, which meant the growth came cheaper. Now the South is adopting the same model: highly capital-intensive and so socially divisive; material and energy-intensive and so polluting. But the South does not have the capacity to make investments critical to equity and sustainability. It cannot temper the adverse impacts of growth.

This is deadly.

Let's stay with the challenge of air pollution. Some years ago, the organisation I work with argued the city of Delhi should convert its public transportation system to compressed natural gas. The move to gas would give us a technology jumpstart as it would drastically cut particulate emissions. Delhi today has the world's largest fleet of buses and other commercial transport vehicles running on gas. The result is that the city has stabilized its pollution, in spite of its huge numbers of vehicles, poor technology, and even poorer regulatory systems to check the emissions of each vehicle. In other words, Delhi did not take a technology-incremental pathway of pollution control on the basis of fitting after-treatment devices on cars and cleaning up fuel. It leapfrogged, in terms of technology and growth.

Now, with ever-increasing numbers of private vehicles crowding the roads of each of its cities and pollution attacking the lungs of its people, the question remains: can it reinvent the dream of mobility so that it does not become a nightmare? Can it make new ways to the future city combining the convenience of mobility and economic growth with public health imperatives? In this hybrid-growth paradigm which combines the best of the new and old cities would run on public transportation, using the most advanced of technologies.

In other words, even as the whole world looks for little solutions to pollution and congestion, we must reinvent

A Queen's Queer Food

The black garden ant mates in midair, after which the queen returns to earth and eats its own wings while the males fall to the ground and crawl away to die.

Clean Technology

There is a desperate need today to meet the challenges caused by climate change and environmental degradation. In the past, it was the entrepreneurial spirit that contributed most to the innovations with far reaching benefits. Besides, scientists from outside the industry innovated technologies like steam power, the railways, telegraph, radio and telephone, petroleum, the automobile, the computer, the Internet, etc. Yet, the role of entrepreneurial innovation in addressing environmental problems has received relatively little attention. In this context, presently, the clean technologies have emerged. Clean technologies are technologies that use energy, water and raw materials and other inputs more efficiently and productively, create less waste or toxicity, deliver equal or superior performance, and improve customer profitability, through cost reduction and/or increased revenues. Such technologies are found in a broad range of industries, including energy, water, manufacturing, advanced materials and transportation. A few examples of clean technologies are wind and solar energy, water filtration, industrial process controls, hybrid electric vehicles, etc.

With the increasing reports of rising oil price, demand for energy worldwide going through the roof and global warming, manufacturers realise that alternatives are serious business. Convergence of environmental, technological, economic and social factors will produce more resource-efficient technologies that will be less reliant on obsolete, polluting technologies.

Clean technology is an intrinsic

part of a sustainable economy. Over the past few years, the importance of developing clean technologies has grown significantly and has driven the growth of what are now multi-billion dollar markets. Globally wind energy market was valued at \$5 billion in the year 2000, are expected to grow to \$55 billion by 2012, while solar energy is expected to move from \$3.5 billion to \$28 billion in the same time period.

The major share of the change in the outlook towards clean technologies has been due to the increasing realisation that this is not merely a social responsibility requirement, but also yield amazing profits.

The result of this awareness is steadily evolving into a sustainable new economy, which is based on premise of clean energy, transportation, water and materials that embody the emerging principles of industrial ecology, resource productivity and natural capitalism. Industrial houses, corporates, as well as governments are now investing in research and development on environment-friendly technologies.

However, there is a need in developing countries to have easy access to the technologies and cheaply. For any major change, changing political understanding on such issues, government support and prospects for business involvement is critical. For the advance of clean technologies require adequate and reliable R&D budgets, better incentive systems to promote and support clean-tech purchases by businesses and competitive price for consumers. A robust economy is as much required for encouraging clean tech investments.

5.8 °C between 1990 and 2100. Current estimates indicate that even if successfully and completely implemented, the Kyoto Protocol will reduce that increase by somewhere between 0.02 °C and 0.28 °C by the year 2050 (source: Nature, October 2003).

Objectives: Kyoto is intended to assign mandatory targets for the reduction of global emissions of greenhouse gas to signatory nations. The objective is the "stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system" UNFCCC-2.

Status: The treaty was negotiated in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997, opened for signature on March 16, 1998, and closed on March 15, 1999. The agreement came into force on February 16, 2005 following ratification by Russia on November 18, 2004. As of July 2006, a total of 164 countries have ratified the agreement (representing over 61.6% of emissions from Annex 1 countries). Notable exceptions include the United States and Australia. Other countries, like India and China, which have ratified the protocol, are not required to reduce carbon emissions under the present agreement.

According to terms of the protocol, conditions for entry into force required 55 parties and at least 55% reduction of the total CO₂ emissions at 1990 levels for the Parties included in Annex 1."

At its heart, Kyoto establishes the

following principles:

- * Kyoto is underwritten by governments and is governed by global legislation enacted under the UN's aegis

- * Governments are separated into two general categories: developed countries, referred to as Annex 1 countries (who have accepted strict GHG emission reduction obligations); and developing countries, referred to as Non-Annex 1 countries (who have no GHG emission reduction obligations) * Any Annex 1 entity failing to meet its Kyoto targets is subject to a fine and further penalised by having its reduction targets increased by 30%

- * By 2008, Annex-1 countries had to reduce their GHG emissions to around 5% below their 1990 levels.

- * Kyoto includes "linking mechanisms" which allow Annex 1 economies to meet their GHG targets by purchasing GHG emission reductions from elsewhere. The Kyoto linking mechanisms are in place for two main reasons:

- * the cost of complying with Kyoto is prohibitive for many Annex 1 countries (especially those countries, such as Japan or the Netherlands for example, with highly efficient, low GHG polluting industries, and high prevailing environmental standards). Kyoto therefore allows these countries to purchase Carbon Credits instead of reducing GHG emissions domestically; and,

- * this is seen as a means of encouraging Non-Annex 1 developing economies to reduce GHG emissions since doing so is now economically viable because of the sale of Carbon Credits.

Solar energy to become cheaper

IBM and Tokyo Ohka Kogyo are collaborating to make solar energy products more affordable and easier to install than those available today. Specifically, the duo has jointly developed processes, materials and equipment suitable for production of CIGS (copper-indium-gallium-selenide) solar cell modules. Use of thin-film technology, such as OGS, has great promise in reducing the overall cost of solar cells and further enabling their widespread adoption.

Flat World Challenges and Technology Implications

Kris Gopalakrishnan,
CEO, Infosys Technologies

Over the last decade, four major forces have been 'flattening' the global business world. Emerging markets such as India, China, Brazil and Russia are staking their claim to a larger share of the global pie. A structural shift in demographics is giving rise to the availability of global talent pools and new customer segments. Technology is becoming ubiquitous with increasing internet penetration and decreasing broadband costs. Finally, greater emphasis on accountability and regulation is creating a level playing field for everybody.

As a result of these changes, barriers have broken across companies, countries and customers. Hierarchies are flattened and information access is spread. Armed with knowledge, customers have become more powerful than ever. Such an environment offers both opportunities and challenges.

To succeed in this 'flat world', businesses must make four decisive shifts in the way they operate. They must build globally competitive cost structures, innovate rapidly, harvest information for profit, and shrink response time to business turns. Together, these traits demonstrate a unique ability to 'think flat' and will differentiate the winners from the also-rans.

But what do we really mean by 'making the shift'?

First, businesses must overhaul their cost structures and use the savings to invest in new products, customers and geographies. However, building cost-efficient operations is not about being cheap. It is about using automation, technology and global operations to create a business model that makes you a lowest-cost producer. A leading bank demonstrated this by using technology to shrink operating costs. It successfully moved over 70% of transactions from its branches to other delivery channels, with the result that its branches became efficient customer acquisition units.

Second, businesses must win customer loyalty through faster innovation because good service is no longer a sustainable differentiator. Companies must respond to the demands of today's hyper-informed customer by increasing the speed of innovation, delivering superior customer experiences and co-creating with customers and partners. For instance, a leading consumer products company's open innovation strategy generated 35% of company innovations and contributed to 60% increase in R&D productivity.

Third, businesses must make the shift from spending money on information to profiting from it. Ironically, many corporations think of information and IT processing as a cost. Across organizations, terabytes of information are captured

Median Age of Software Professionals

The median age of software professionals in India is 28.9 years. Seventy per cent of these professionals are in the 26-35 years age group. There are more women than men working in BPO sector, the ratio being 69:31.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

OS: (i) Windows XP or Vista;
 (ii) Mac OS (Tiger, Leopard);
 (iii) Linux; Unix, (iv) BE OS ...

Browsers: (old) HyperCard, Gopher,
 World Wide Web(Nexus), Mosaic,
 (new) K-Meleon, Netscape, Internet
 Explorer 7; Firefox 3; Opera 9.5;
 Sea Monkey; Safari 3, Flock 1.2,
 Konqueror 4 ...

Search Engines: Google; MSN; Yahoo,
 Ask Jeeves, Infoseek, Cuil...

Operating system

An operating system is a program, that controls the basic operations of a computer. A typical OS controls the peripheral devices such as printers, organises the filing system, provides a means of communicating with the operator, and runs other programs.

Many operating systems are written to run on specific computers, but the third-

party OS run on computers of different make. Without an operating system, a computer would be useless.

OS category

Unix/BSD: Unix System V, AIX, HP Solaris, IRIX, BSD distros

GNU/Linux: Linux distros, ...

Windows: 2000, XP, Vista, CE

Mac OS: Mac OS X

Experimental: Amoeba, Oberon/BeOS, Plan 9 (Bell Labs)

There are Embedded and Real-time OSes also.

Windows

Microsoft Windows is a series of software operating systems produced by Microsoft. Microsoft first introduced Windows in November 1985 as an add-on to MS-DOS in response to the growing interest in graphical user interfaces (GUIs).

CATEGORIES OF COMPUTERS

Computers can be categorised as mainframe computers, mini-computers and micro-computers.

Mainframe computers are expensive, large, centralised computer facilities where a super computer (like the CRAY or PARAM or CYBER) or a large computer (like the DEC 10, IBM S390 models etc.) is connected to several terminals. A multi-user mainframe computer has a large memory and is capable of speeds of the order of several billions of floating-point operations per second (Flops).

Mini-computers are also multi-user computers comparatively operating at slower speeds and lesser memory. In the mini-computer category are the extremely popular DEC10, PDP-11 and the VAX-11 computers of the Digital

Equipment Corporation (DEC).

Micro-computers are based on standard micro-processors marketed by Intel, Motorola, etc. A micro-processor is a single silicon electronic chip which contains the ALU and the control unit. Micro-computers are often called Personal Computers or PCs since they were originally intended to be single user devices either at the office or at home. The home computer is a PC providing education, entertainment, information and communication facility at home. Now-a-days one can send email, greetings, chat, play games, hear music, play video, videoconferencing, do shopping, banking operations, reserve travel tickets, with the help of a home PC and internet without leaving one's home.

both in structured and unstructured forms - blogs, emails, documents, etc. To harness this data for profit, companies must focus on information sharing, invest in analytics, and build information stewardship capabilities. Case in point: A leading telecom company used data analysis alone to plug revenue leakage, saving \$60 million.

The fourth imperative for companies is to use changing business cycles, whether created by regulatory or market forces, to their advantage. Just as a species must adapt to survive changes in its environment, a business must adapt to compete successfully in a global economy. It must monitor leading indicators, prepare in advance to manage business risk, and respond quickly to business cycles. Take the example of a leading hi-tech manufacturer, which freed up \$30 million in working capital by outsourcing back-office processes.

Every business that successfully made the shift used technology to do so. In a recent study of 200 top executives, over 70% rated technology as a top change agent shaping the global business environment.

Technology forms the backbone of every successful business but managing it presents considerable challenges. Companies must transform their IT functions from silos of tactical operations to a global strategic function. This requires a reorientation of IT across four dimensions:

Experience Orientation: Today, technology adoption in the consumer space is increasing. Thanks to the 'consumerization' of enterprise IT, there is in-

creasing demand for an enhanced digital experience. IT should be able to provide contextual information to users and enable them to interact and exchange ideas in a medium of their choice. An illustration of this is the case of an international community of top decision-makers, which uses an online communication and collaboration platform to locate experts and work together on global issues.

Process Orientation: Business processes cut across departments, systems and organizational boundaries. However, many business processes are hardwired into systems, compromising their flexibility. Business processes should be explicitly modeled and managed. IT's focus should move from "making the code work" to "making the process work". Case in point is a leading insurance company, which automated its claim handling process, eliminating dependency on multiple systems and manual approval procedures.

Service Orientation: IT systems should be modeled as well-defined services and aligned to the overall operating model. This reduces repetition of functionality and enables IT to respond faster to business needs. Changes in business model (e.g. M&A and integration) can be rapidly executed. For example, service orientation enabled a telecom major to integrate better with its partners to resell their products. It was also able to provide superior quality of service by consolidating customer care and billing.

Intelligence Orientation: Organizations work with diverse and distributed data - integrated information and ana-

The First Video Game

The world's first video game was invented by physicist William Higinbotham in 1958. It was the ancestor of Pong, the table tennis simulation that 14 years later became the first publicly available video game.

multithreading, preemptive multitasking and a custom 64-bit journaling file system known as BFS. The API was written in C++ for ease of programming. The company was acquired by Palm Inc. and today BeOS is mainly used and developed by a small population of enthusiasts.

Programming languages

Programming languages provide various ways of specifying programs for computers to run. Not like natural languages, programming languages are designed to permit no ambiguity and to be concise. They are purely written languages and are often difficult to read aloud. They are generally either translated into machine language by a compiler or an assembler before being run or translated directly at run time by an interpreter. Sometimes programs are executed by a hybrid method of the two techniques. There are thousands of different programming languages - some intended to be general purpose while others are useful highly specialised applications.

Networking

An internetwork is a collection of individual networks, connected by intermediate networking devices, that functions as a single large network. The networking devices are the vital tools for communication. Whenever you have a set of computers or networking devices to be connected, you make the connections, depending on the physical layout and your requirements. Depending on the physical layout or topology of the network, there are three types of networks.

LAN stands for Local Area Network.

These networks evolved around the PC revolution. LANs enabled multiple users in a relatively small geographical area to exchange files and messages, as well as access shared resources such as file servers.

WAN stands for Wide Area Network. The interconnection of various LAN's through telephone network, which unites geographically distributed users is achieved through WAN. In short when we log on to the internet, we become a part of a WAN.

MAN stands for Metropolitan Area Network. It is usually the interconnection between various LAN's in a particular geographical area like a metropolitan city like Bombay. Hence the name.

Internetworking evolved as a solution to three key problems: isolated LANs, duplication of resources, and a lack of network management. Isolated LANs made electronic communication between different offices or departments impossible. Duplication of resources meant that the same hardware and software had to be supplied to each office or department, as did a separate support staff. This lack of network management meant that no centralised method of managing and troubleshooting networks existed.

Broadband

Broadband Internet access, often shortened to just broadband, is high-speed Internet access—typically contrasted with dial-up access over a modem. Dial-up modems are generally only capable of a maximum bitrate of 56 kbit/s (kilobits per second) and require the full use of a telephone line—whereas broadband

The Expanding Universe

The universe is expanding. Galaxies are moving apart from each other at high speed. A galaxy 10 m. light years away gets 300 km. further from us every second.

Memory Size Conversion Table

Bytes

Kilobyte	1,024	Kilobytes		
Megabyte	1,048,576	1,024	Megabytes	
Gigabyte	1,073,741,824	1,048,576	1,024	Gigabytes
Terabyte	1,099,511,627,776	1,073,741,824	1,048,576	1,024

Microsoft Windows came to dominate the world's personal computer market, overtaking Mac OS, which had been introduced previously. At the 2004 IDC Directions conference, it was stated that Windows had approximately 90% of the client operating system market. The most recent client version of Windows is Windows Vista; the current server version is Windows Server 2008.

MacOS

Mac OS is the trademarked name for a series of graphical user interface-based OS developed by Apple Inc. The Macintosh user experience is credited with popularising the graphical user interface. The original form of what Apple would later name the "Mac OS" was the integral and unnamed system software first introduced in 1984 with the original Macintosh, usually referred to simply as the System software. The latest is OS X.

Linux

Developed by Linus Torvalds and further elaborated by a number of developers throughout the world, Linux is a freely available multitasking and multi-user operating system. From the outset, Linux was placed under General Public License (GPL). The system can be distributed, used and expanded free of charge. In this way, developers have access to all the source

codes, thus being able to integrate new functions easily or to find and eliminate programming bugs quickly. Thereby drivers for new adapters (SCSI controller, graphics cards, etc.) can be integrated very rapidly.

Presently, Linux is successfully being used by several millions of users worldwide. The composition of user groups varies from private users, training companies, universities, research centres right through to commercial users and companies, who view Linux as a real alternative to other operating systems.

HAIKU

HAIKU is an open-source operating system currently in development designed from the ground up for desktop computing. Haiku aims to provide users of all levels with a personal computing experience that is simple yet powerful, and free of any unnecessary complexities.

As a tool, software is a means to an end, and not an end in itself.

BeOS

BeOS is an operating system for personal computers which began Be Inc. in 1991. BeOS was an advantage of modern I/O mixing for digital media full use of multiprocessor utilizing modular I/O bus

conformance and interoperability of the standard. The forum describes WiMAX as "a standards-based technology enabling the delivery of last mile wireless broadband access as an alternative to cable and DSL" (and also to High Speed Packet Access).

Bluetooth

Bluetooth technology is a cutting-edge open specification that enables short-range wireless connections between desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, personal digital assistants, mobile phones, camera

phones, printers, digital cameras, headsets, keyboards and even a computer mouse. In a nutshell, Bluetooth technology unplugs your digital peripherals and makes cable clutter a thing of the past.

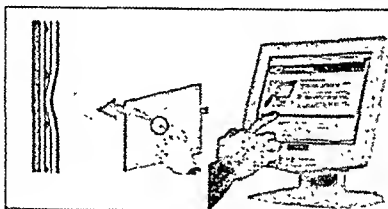
Mobile devices networks

GSM and CDMA The cell phone can access Internet on the mobile phone and can also connect PC to internet through its network.

Satellite phones are available but very expensive.

Touch Screen Systems

A typical touchscreen input system is basically an input device like a mouse or trackpad. A touch screen is a computer display screen that is sensitive to human touch, allowing a user to interact with the computer by touching pictures or words on the screen. A touchscreen system is made up of a touch sensor, a controller card, and a software driver.



Resistive: A resistive touch screen panel is composed of several layers. When some object touches this kind of touch panel, the layers are connected at certain point which registers a touch event and sends it to the controller for processing. Resistive touch screen panels are not affected by dust or water and are the type most commonly used today.

What Are Touchscreens Used For?

Touch screens are used with information kiosks, computer-based training devices, and systems designed to help individuals who have difficulty manipulating a mouse or keyboard. Touchscreen systems are being used in a variety of applications, including point-of-sale systems, public information displays, industrial control systems, and more. There are a number of types of touch screen technology:

Surface acoustic wave: Surface acoustic wave (SAW) technology uses ultrasonic waves that pass over the touch screen panel. When the panel is touched, a portion of the wave is absorbed. This information is sent to the controller for processing.

Capacitive: A capacitive touch screen panel is coated with indium tin oxide that conducts a continuous electrical current across the sensor. When the sensor's 'normal' reference state is altered

technologies supply at least double this speed and generally without disrupting telephone use. Speeds are defined in terms of maximum download because several common consumer broadband technologies such as ADSL are "asymmetric"—supporting much slower maximum upload speeds than download.

Technology

The standard broadband technologies in most areas are DSL and cable modems. Newer technologies in use include VDSL and pushing optical fiber connections closer to the subscriber in both telephone and cable plants. Fiber-optic communication, while only recently being used in fiber to the premises and fiber to the curb schemes, has played a crucial role in enabling Broadband Internet access by making transmission of information over larger distances much more cost-effective than copper wire technology. In a few areas not served by cable or ADSL, community organisations have begun to install Wi-Fi networks, and in some cities and towns local governments are installing municipal Wi-Fi networks. Since 2006, high speed mobile Internet access has become available at the consumer level in some countries, using the HSDPA and EV-DO technologies. The newest technology being deployed for mobile and stationary broadband access is WiMAX.

Wired Ethernet Where available, this method of broadband connection to the Internet would indicate that the Internet access is very fast. However, just because Ethernet is offered doesn't mean that the full 10, 100, or 1000 Mbit/s connection is able to be utilised for direct

ISDN Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN) is one of the oldest high-speed digital access methods for consumers and businesses to connect to the Internet.

Wireless access

wireless network refers to any type of computer network that is wireless, and is commonly associated with a telecommunications network whose interconnections between nodes is implemented without the use of wires. Wireless telecommunications networks are generally implemented with some type of remote information transmission system that uses electromagnetic waves, such as radio waves, for the carrier and this implementation usually takes place at the physical level or "layer" of the network.

Wi-Fi, means 'wireless fidelity.' It is the popular term for a high-frequency wireless local area network (WLAN) that is generally referred to as 802.11 network, more specifically the 802.11b nomenclature given by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

WiMAX

WiMAX, the Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, is a telecommunications technology that provides wireless data in a variety of ways, from point-to-point links to full mobile cellular type access. It is based on the IEEE 802.16 standard, which is also called WirelessMAN. The name "WiMAX" was created by the WiMAX Forum, which was formed in June 2001 to promote

Cellular broadband

Cellular phone towers are very widespread, and as cellular networks move to third generation (3G) networks they can support fast data; using technologies such as EVDO, HSDPA and UMTS. These can give broadband access to the Internet, with a cell phone, with USB cellular modems, or with cellular broadband routers, which allow more than one computer to be connected to the Internet using one cellular connection.

Highest number of Internet Users

According to official Chinese Statistics by BDA China, the number of Chinese users are more than 220 million in February 2008 and has surpassed USA as the No. 1 nation in number of Internet users. By the end of March, for example, Chinese users climbed to 233 million. Percentage-wise, the American users are 71% and still exceeds China's 17%. China is also the world leader in cell-phone use.

The companies running the Internet backbone operate very high bandwidth networks relied on by governments, corporations, large organizations, and other Internet service providers. Their technical infrastructure often includes global connections through underwater cables and satellite links to enable communication between countries and continents.

Bandwidth is priced by large Internet service providers by several methods, such as at a fixed rate for constant availability of a certain number of megabits per second, or by a variety of use methods that amount to a cost per gigabyte. Due to economies of scale and efficiencies in management, bandwidth cost drops dramatically at the higher levels of the architecture.

History in brief

The Soviet launch of the first satellite, Sputnik I in 1957, triggered US President Dwight Eisenhower to create the ARPA agency to regain the technological edge in the arms race.

Lawrence Roberts led development of the network, based on the new idea of packet switching discovered by Paul

Baran at RAND, and a few years later by Donald Davies at the UK National Physical Laboratory. Internet was conceived in the form of computer networking at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1962. A special computer called an Interface Message Processor was developed to realise the design, and the ARPANET (Advanced Research Project Agency Network - of US Department of Defense) went live in early October, 1969. In fact, DOD was working on a complex project where the input of very high academic and technological content required to be integrated. The first communications were between Leonard Kleinrock's research center at the University of California (at Santa Barbara and Los Angeles), Douglas Engelbart's center at the Stanford Research Institute and University of Utah.

The first networking protocol used on the ARPANET was the Network Control Program. The first public demonstration of the network was organised during the International Computer Communication conference in September 1972 and presented by Bob Kahn, the designer of the ARPANET architecture. Once the network was established, the users wanted to transfer large data files. Hence came the "File Transfer Protocol" (FTP) (1971). Subsequently E-mail became a reality in 1972. The next major milestone was in 1982 when Defense Data Networking (MILNET) created TCP/IP protocol suites for ARPANET and other military networks. In 1983, it was replaced with the Transfer Protocol and Internet Protocols (TCP/IP) developed by Robert Kahn, Vinton Cerf, and others, which quickly became the most widely used network protocol in the world.

In 1990, the ARPANET was retired and transferred to the NSFNET. The NSFNET was soon connected to the CSNET

by someone's finger, electronic circuits measures the resultant 'distortion' and informs the controller for processing. Capacitive sensors can either be touched with a bare finger or with a conductive device. Capacitive touch screens are not affected by outside elements and have high clarity.

Infrared: This method uses an array of vertical and horizontal IR sensors that detect the interruption of a modulated light beam near the surface of the screen. IR touch screens are used in many military applications that require a

touch panel display.

Strain gauge: Here the screen is spring mounted on the four corners and strain gauges are used to determine deflection when the screen is touched. This technology can also measure the Z-axis. Typically used in exposed public systems such as ticket machines due to their resistance to vandalism.

There are several other technologies like Optical imaging, Dispersive signal technology, Acoustic pulse recognition; Frustrated total internal reflection and Diffused laser imaging.

Internet

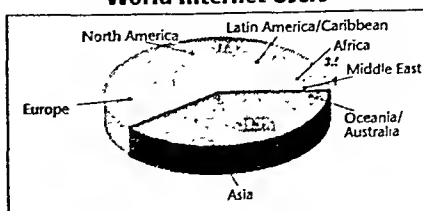
The Internet is by definition a meta-network, a constantly changing collection of thousands of individual networks intercommunicating with a common protocol.

The Internet's architecture is described in its name, a short form of the compound word "inter-networking". This architecture is based in the very specification of the standard TCP/IP protocol, designed to connect any two networks which may be very different in internal hardware, software, and technical design. Once two networks are interconnected, communication with TCP/IP is enabled end-to-end, so that any node on the Internet has the near magical ability to communicate with any other no matter where they are. This openness of design has enabled the Internet architecture to grow to a global scale.

The Internet technical architecture looks a bit like a multi-dimensional river system, with small tributaries feeding medium-sized streams feeding large

ivers. For example, an individual's access to the Internet is often from home over a modem to a local Internet service provider who connects to a regional network connected to a national network. At the office, a desktop computer might be connected to a local area network with a company connection to a corporate Intranet connected to several national Internet service providers. In general, small local Internet service providers connect to medium-sized regional networks which connect to large national networks, which then connect to very large bandwidth networks on the Internet backbone.

World Internet Users



Source: www.internetworldstats.com

Toilet cleaner than keyboard?

Your keyboard could be host to a greater number of harmful bacteria than the average toilet seat. Which? A UK consumer watchdog recently conducted a survey at their own offices that revealed some computer keyboards had dangerously high levels of bacteria normally associated with a toilet.

Microbiologist James Francis swabbed 30 keyboards and a toilet seat at the Which? London office. Most of the keyboards passed the hygiene test, but Francis found 4 of the keyboards were so infested with germs they posed a health hazard that could give someone a bad stomach upset; 2 of them had "warning" levels of staphylococcus aureus, and one had 150 times the safe limit of bacteria, and was 5 times dirtier than the toilet seat. Francis suggested this keyboard be removed from the office, as a precaution.

The causes: of a germ-ridden keyboard (a) eating lunch at your desk, and bits of food that get into the keys are ideal breeding ground for millions of bacteria (b) using the keyboard without washing hands after going to the toilet or rest room, and (c) dust, because this traps moisture and makes the food-ridden keyboard even more appealing to bacteria.

Which? polled 4,000 people online in January and February 2008 to find out how often they cleaned their computer. 11% - never cleaned their keyboard and 20% - never cleaned their mouse. 13% - never cleaned their laptop, only 25% cleaned it every month.

Another potential source of infection is earphones, headphones, computer accessories-Phone, USB cables, Pen-drive, etc. When these are shared among users they can spread germs. In US, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on a norovirus outbreak at



a Washington, D.C., elementary school in February 2008, in which some of the victims picked up the virus from contaminated computer equipment. Of the 314 students and 66 staffers at the D.C. school, 79 students and 24 staff members were affected. To find the sources of contamination, samples were taken from various surfaces around the school. In one first-grade classroom, a computer mouse and keyboard tested positive for norovirus.

Warning: While cleaning, never put yourself at risk by opening the peripheral or using wrong methods or wrong cleaners that can even damage the computer.

Webcasting A webcast is a "live" training event, delivered via Internet and telephone. In order to connect to a webcast, participants need only an Internet-connected computer and a speakerphone, in the same room. Participants are connected with their colleagues from around the nation (or even around the world), while participating in these

fully-interactive online conferences. For more formal sessions, participants may schedule a conference room equipped with the following: (a) a video projector connected to an Internet-connected computer and (b) a speakerphone on a separate line (verify that long distance dialing is not blocked)

Shoutcasting is widely used by a lot

which linked Universities around North America, and then to the EUnet, which connected research facilities in Europe. The formal birth of Internet was registered, when Internet Society was chartered in 1992. NSF's enlightened management, and fueled by the popularity of the web, the use of the Internet exploded after 1990 when it was converted into a public network and opened to all the citizens, causing the US Government to transfer its management to independent organisations starting in 1995. No wonder then that this Internet infrastructure was christened as World Wide Web (WWW).

Internet 2 It offers super connectivity speed of 155mbps through fibre optic backbones and network protocols. It is believed to achieve a speed 100-times faster than a typical US University-Lab connections and almost 3000-times faster than dial-up connection. 34 US research institutions joined hands in 1996 to form the Internet 2 consortium.

Web 1-2-3

According to Berners Lee, Web 1 is like read only web, Web 2 is like read-write web and Web 3 is like read-write-execute web.



Browsers

Browser is an application that lets us view the webpage and interact with it. There are different browsers for different platforms and with multiple features.

Internet Explorer Internet Explorer 7 is the latest version of Internet Explorer. Internet Explorer 8 Beta is undergoing testing.

World Domain Count			
Rank	Active	New	TLD
1.	76,754,891	187,751	.com
2.	11,664,842	24,339	.net
3.	6,978,492	7,774	.org
4.	4,973,374	13,381	.info
5.	1,987,540	1,850	.biz
6.	1,436,188	1,337	.us
Total	103,927,162	236,432	
Last Updated : 08/2008			

Web 1.0 was developed as a source of information and a network that facilitated global presence and retrieval of information. It worked also as a catalogue of a supermarket providing product detail, shopping cart and online payment.

Web 2.0 is a participatory web involving users' collective intelligence, openness and freedom. It utilises inter-human connectivity to contribute and interact, upload, share and reuse its dynamic content. It generally follows web standards and is scalable.

Web 3.0, coined by John Markoff, is a seamless interoperable whole with ubiquitous connectivity, broadband adoption, mobile internet access, mobile device connectivity using open technologies-protocols-APIs and data formats.



Mozilla Firefox 3.0 (2008) has emerged as the most successful alternative web browser since the "browser wars" ended between IE and Netscape. **Opera** has managed to weather the browser wars since its original release in 1996. Opera is a full-fledged Internet suite with web, e-mail, news (usenet

Select Keyboard Shortcuts

[Window] Open or Close Start menu
 [Window] [D] View desktop
 [Window] [M] Minimise
 [Window] [E] Open My Computer
 [Window] [F] Search for file or folder
 [Window] [Pause] View System Properties

[Ctrl] [A] Select all
 [Ctrl] [C] Copy / [Ctrl] [X] Cut
 [Ctrl] [V] Paste
 [Ctrl] [Z] Undo / [Ctrl] [Y] Redo
 [Ctrl] [Up Arrow] move cursor to the start of the previous para or line
 [Ctrl] [Down Arrow] move cursor to the start of the next para or line
 [Ctrl] [Windows] [Tab] Switch
 [Delete] move to Recycle Bin
 [Shift] + [Delete] Delete without moving it to Recycle Bin
 [Ctrl] [Shift] [pointer] Select text block
 [Alt] [Space] Open Shortcut menu
 [Alt] [Enter] Display properties
 [Alt] [Esc] Cycle through items in the order in which they were opened
 [Alt] [Tab] Switch over active programs
 [F1] Display Help
 [F2] Rename file
 [F3] Search file or folder
 [F4] View the Address bar list
 [F5] Refresh active window
 Press [Shift] [insert CD/DVD] prevents auto play
 [Esc] Cancel the current task

Windows Explorer

[Ctrl] [N] open new window
 [End] view the bottom of the active window
 [Home] View the top of the active window

Windows Run Command

Add/Remove	wix.cpl
Add Hardware wizard	hdwwiz.cpl
Calculator	calc
Character Map	charmap
Check disk utility	chkdsk
Clipboard viewer	clipbrd
Command prompt	cmd
Date / Time	timedate.cpl
Device manager	devmgmt.msc
Disk defragment	dfrg.msc
Disk Partition manager	diskpart
Display properties	desk.cpl
Folder properties	control folders
Fonts folder	control fonts
Game controller	joy.cpl
Help and Support	helpctr
Internet connection wizard	icwconn1
Internet Explorer	iexplore
Internet properties	inetcpl.cpl
Phone dialer	dialer
Printers folder	printers
Registry Editor	regedit
Remote desktop	mstsc
Screen Keyboard	osk
Shared folders	fsmgmt.msc
Task manager	taskmgr

Digital Doomsday

The digital doomsday is round the corner. By 2011, there will be a web chaos in the world as we run out of internet addresses. More than 85 % of the available addresses have already been allocated, according to a prediction by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These are not the normal web addresses that one types into the browser's window. These are the numerical internet protocol (IP) addresses that denote individual devices connected to the internet.

The Biggest and The Smallest States

The Biggest

In Area		
State	Area (Sq km)	Location
Russia	17,075,000	Europe-Asia
Canada	9,976,139	N. America
China	9,561,000	Asia
U.S.A.	9,372,614	N. America
Brazil	8,511,965	S. America
Australia	7,682,300	S. Pacific
India	3,287,263	Asia
Argentina	2,776,654	S. America
Kazakhstan	2,717,300	Asia
Sudan	2,505,813	Africa

In Population		
State	Population	Location
China	1,330,044,605	Asia
India	1,147,995,898	Asia
USA	303,824,646	N. America
Indonesia	237,512,355	Asia
Brazil	191,908,598	S. America
Pakistan	167,762,040	Asia
Bangladesh	153,546,901	Asia
Russia	140,702,094	Europe-Asia
Nigeria	138,283,240	Africa
Japan	127,288,419	Asia

The Smallest

In Area		
State	Area (sq km)	Location
Vatican City	0.44	Europe
Monaco	1.95	Europe
Nauru	21.10	S. Pacific
Tuvalu	26.00	S. Pacific
San Marino	61.00	Europe
Liechtenstein	160.00	Europe
Marshall Islands	181.00	C. Pacific
St. Kitts-Nevis	269.00	E. Caribbean
Maldives	298.00	Indian Ocean
Malta	316.00	Mediterranean

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Vatican City	900	Europe
Tuvalu	12,177	S. Pacific
Nauru	13,770	S. Pacific
Palau	21,093	W. Pacific
San Marino	29,973	Europe
Monaco	32,796	Europe
Liechtenstein	34,498	Europe
St. Kitts-Nevis	39,619	E. Caribbean
Marshall Islands	63,174	N. Pacific Ocean
Antigua and Barbuda	69,842	Caribbean

World Population-2008

Continents	Population	Continents	Population
Asia	4,047,495,072	Australia/Oceania	33,560,095
Africa	954,403,493	Antarctica	0
Europe	729,546,033	World	6,677,563,921
North America	337,167,248		
South America	384,383,957	Total	6,677,563,921

WORLD PANORAMA

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North America	337,167,248		
South America	384,383,957	Total	6,677,563,921

Nations : a Ready Reckoner

UN Members

Country	Region	Capital	Currency
1. Afghanistan	S.C. Asia	Kabul	Afgani
2. Albania	S. Europe	Tirana	Lek
3. Algeria	N. Africa	Algiers	Algerian Dinar
4. Andorra	S. Europe	Andorra la Vella	Euro
5. Angola	M. Africa	Luanda	readjusted Kwanza
6. Antigua and Barbuda	Caribbean	St. John's	Eastern Caribbean Dollar
7. Argentina	S. America	Buenos Aires	Peso
8. Armenia	W. Asia	Yerevan	Dram
9. Australia	Oceania	Canberra	Australian Dollar
10. Austria	W. Europe	Vienna	Euro
11. Azerbaijan	W. Asia	Baku	Manat
12. Bahamas, The	Caribbean	Nassau	Bahamian dollar
13. Bahrain	W. Asia	Manama	Bahraini Dinar
14. Bangladesh	S.C. Asia	Dhaka	Taka
15. Barbados	Caribbean	Bridgetown	Barbados dollar
16. Belarus	E. Europe	Minsk	Rouble
17. Belgium	W. Europe	Brussels	Euro
18. Belize	C. America	Belmopan	Belize dollar
19. Benin	W. Africa	Porto-Novo	Franc CFA
20. Bhutan	S.C. Asia	Thimphu	Ngultrum
21. Bolivia	S. America	Sucre	Boliviano
22. Bosnia Herzegovina	S. Europe	Sarajevo	Marka
23. Botswana	S. Africa	Gaborone	Pula
24. Brazil	S. America	Brasilia (Federal)	Real
25. Brunei	S.E. Asia	Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei dollar
26. Bulgaria	E. Europe	Sofia	Lev
27. Burkina Faso	W. Africa	Ouagadougou	Franc CFA
28. Burundi	E. Africa	Bujumbura	Burundi Franc
29. Cambodia	S.E. Asia	Phnom Penh	Riel
30. Cameroon	M. Africa	Yaounde	Franc CFA
31. Canada	N. America	Ottawa	Canadian dollar
32. Cape Verde	W. Africa	Praia	Cape Verde Escudo
33. Central African Republic	M. Africa	Bangui	Franc CFA
34. Chad	M. Africa	N'Djamena	Franc CFA

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ongo (formerly Zaire)

Congo

Costa Rica

Cote D' Ivoire

Croatia

Cuba

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Djibouti

Dominica

Dominican Republic

East Timor

Ecuador

Egypt

El Salvador

Equatorial Guinea

Eritrea

Estonia

Ethiopia

Fiji Islands

Finland

France

Gabon

Gambia, The

Georgia

Germany

Ghana

Greece

Grenada

Guatemala

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Guyana

Haiti

Honduras

Hungary

Iceland

S. America

E. Asia

S. America

E. Africa

M. Africa

M. Africa

C. America

W. Africa

S. Europe

Caribbean

W. Asia

E. Europe

N. Europe

E. Africa

Caribbean

Caribbean

S.E. Asia

S. America

N. Africa

C. America

M. Africa

E. Africa

N. Europe

E. Africa

Oceania

N. Europe

W. Europe

M. Africa

W. Africa

W. Asia

W. Europe

W. Africa

S. Europe

Caribbean

C. America

W. Africa

W. Africa

S. America

Caribbean

C. America

E. Europe

N. Europe

Santiago (Adm)

Valparaiso (Leg)

Beijing

Bogota

Moroni

Kinshasa

Brazzaville

San Jose

Yamoussoukro

Zagreb

Havana

Nicosia

Prague

Copenhagen

Djibouti

Roseau

Santo Domingo

Dili

Quito

Cairo

San Salvador

Malabo

Asmara

Tallinn

Addis Ababa

Suva

Helsinki

Paris

Libreville

Banjul

Tbilisi

Berlin

Accra

Athens

St. George's

Guatemala City

Conakry

Bissau

Georgetown

Port-au-Prince

Tegucigalpa

Budapest

Reykjavik

Peso

Chilean peso

Renminbi Yuan

Colombian Peso

Comorian Franc

Congo Franc

Franc CFA

Costa Rican Colon

Franc CFA (XOF)

Kuna

Cuban peso

Euro

Koruna

Danish Krone

Djibouti Franc

East Caribbean Dollar

Peso

US Dollar

US Dollar

Egyptian Pound

Colon

Franc CFA (XAF)

Nakfa

Kroon

Bir

Fiji Dollar

Eu

Eu

Franc C

Da

Eastern Caribbean

Guinea

Fra

Guyan

Nations : a Ready Reckoner

UN Members

Country	Region	Capital	Currency
1. Afghanistan	S.C. Asia	Kabul	Afgani
2. Albania	S. Europe	Tirana	Lek
3. Algeria	N. Africa	Algiers	Algerian Dinar
4. Andorra	S. Europe	Andorra la Vella	Euro
5. Angola	M. Africa	Luanda	readjusted Kwanza
6. Antigua and Barbuda	Caribbean	St. John's	Eastern Caribbean Dollar
7. Argentina	S. America	Buenos Aires	Peso
8. Armenia	W. Asia	Yerevan	Dram
9. Australia	Oceania	Canberra	Australian Dollar
10. Austria	W. Europe	Vienna	Euro
11. Azerbaijan	W. Asia	Baku	Manat
12. Bahamas, The	Caribbean	Nassau	Bahamian dollar
13. Bahrain	W. Asia	Manama	Bahraini Dinar
14. Bangladesh	S.C. Asia	Dhaka	Taka
15. Barbados	Caribbean	Bridgetown	Barbados dollar
16. Belarus	E. Europe	Minsk	Rouble
17. Belgium	W. Europe	Brussels	Euro
18. Belize	C. America	Belmopan	Belize dollar
19. Benin	W. Africa	Porto-Novo	Franc CFA
20. Bhutan	S.C. Asia	Thimphu	Ngultrum
21. Bolivia	S. America	Sucre	Boliviano
22. Bosnia Herzegovina	S. Europe	Sarajevo	Marka
23. Botswana	S. Africa	Gaborone	Pula
24. Brazil	S. America	Brasilia (Federal)	Real
25. Brunei	S.E. Asia	Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei dollar
26. Bulgaria	E. Europe	Sofia	Lev
27. Burkina Faso	W. Africa	Ouagadougou	Franc CFA
28. Burundi	E. Africa	Bujumbura	Burundi Franc
29. Cambodia	S.E. Asia	Phnom Penh	Riel
30. Cameroon	M. Africa	Yaounde	Franc CFA
31. Canada	N. America	Ottawa	Canadian dollar
32. Cape Verde	W. Africa	Praia	Cape Verde Escudo
33. Central African Republic	M. Africa	Bangui	CFA
34. Chad	M. Africa	N'Djamena	

	N. Africa	Rabat	Metical
	E. Africa	Maputo	Kyat
	S.E. Asia	Yangon (Rangoon)	Namibia Dollar
	S. Africa	Windhoek	Australian Dollar
	Oceania	Yaren	Nepalese Rupee
	S.C. Asia	Kathmandu	Euro
	W. Europe	Amsterdam	New Zealand Dollar
	Oceania	Wellington	Cordobas
	C. America	Managua	Franc CFA
	W. Africa	Niamey	Naira
	W. Africa	Abuja	Norwegian Krone
	N. Europe	Oslo	Rial Omani
	W. Asia	Muscat	Pakistan Rupee
	S.C. Asia	Islamabad	US currency
	Oceania	Melekeok	Balboa
	C. America	Panama City	Kina
	Oceania	Port Moresby	Guarani
	S. America	Asuncion	Nuevo Sol
	S. America	Lima	Peso
	S.E. Asia	Manila	Zloty
	E. Europe	Warsaw	Euro
	S. Europe	Lisbon	Riyal
	W. Asia	Doha	Leu
	E. Europe	Bucharest	Rouble
	E. Europe	Moscow	Rwanda Franc
	E. Africa	Kigali	Tala
	Oceania	Apia	Euro
	S. Europe	San Marino	Dobra
	M. Africa	Sao Tome	Rial
	W. Asia	Riyadh	Franc CFA
	W. Africa	Dakar	Dinar
	S. Europe	Belgrade	Seychelles Rupee
	E. Africa	Victoria	Leone
	W. Africa	Freetown	Singapore Dollar
	S.E. Asia	Singapore City	Slovak Korun
	E. Europe	Bratislava	Euro
	S. Europe	Ljubljana	Solomon Island Doll
	Oceania	Honiara	Somali Shilling
	E. Africa	Mogadishu	Rand
	S. Africa	Pretoria (Adm.)	
		Cape Town (Leg.)	
		Bloemfontein (Jud.)	
		Madrid	
	S. Europe	Colombo	Sri Lankan Rupee
	S.C. Asia		
159. Spain			
160. Sri Lanka			

77.	India	S.C. Asia	New Delhi	Rupee
78.	Indonesia	S.E. Asia	Jakarta	Rupiah
79.	Iran	S.C. Asia	Tehran	Rial
80.	Iraq	W. Asia	Baghdad	Iraqi Dinar
81.	Ireland	N. Europe	Dublin	Euro
82.	Israel	W. Asia	Jerusalem	Shekel
83.	Italy	S. Europe	Rome	Euro
84.	Jamaica	Caribbean	Kingston	Jamaican Dollar
85.	Japan	E. Asia	Tokyo	Yen
86.	Jordan	W. Asia	Amman	Jordan Dinar
87.	Kazakhstan	S.C. Asia	Astana	Tenge
88.	Kenya	E. Africa	Nairobi	Shilling
89.	Kiribati	Oceania	Bairiki (Tarawa)	Australian Dollar
90.	Korea, North	E. Asia	Pyongyang	Won
91.	Korea, South	E. Asia	Seoul	Won
92.	Kuwait	W. Asia	Kuwait	Kuwaiti Dinar
93.	Kyrgyzstan	S.C. Asia	Bishkek	Som
94.	Laos	S.E. Asia	Vientiane	Kip
95.	Latvia	N. Europe	Riga	Lats
96.	Lebanon	W. Asia	Beirut	Lebanese Pound
97.	Lesotho	S. Africa	Maseru	Loti
98.	Liberia	W. Africa	Monrovia	Liberian Dollar
99.	Libya	N. Africa	Tripoli	Libyan Dinar
100.	Liechtenstein	W. Europe	Vaduz	Swiss Franc
101.	Lithuania	N. Europe	Vilnius	Litas
102.	Luxembourg	W. Europe	Luxembourg	Euro
103.	Macedonia	S. Europe	Skopje	Denar
104.	Madagascar	E. Africa	Antananarivo	Ariary
105.	Malawi	E. Africa	Lilongwe	Kwacha
106.	Malaysia	S.E. Asia	Putrajaya (Adm) Kuala Lumpur (Fin.)	Ringgit
107.	Maldives	S.C. Asia	Male	Rufiyaa
108.	Mali	W. Africa	Bamako	Franc CFA
109.	Malta	S. Europe	Valletta	Euro
110.	Marshall Islands	Oceania	Majuro Atoll	US Dollar
111.	Mauritania	W. Africa	Nouakchott	Ouguiya
112.	Mauritius	E. Africa	Port Louis	Murru
113.	Mexico	C. America	Mexico City	Mexican Peso
114.	Micronesia	Oceania	Palikir	US Dollar
115.	Moldova	E. Europe	Chisinau	Leu
116.	Monaco	W. Europe	Monaco	Euro
117.	Mongolia	E. Asia	Ulan Bator	Tugrik
118.	Montenegro	S.E. Europe	Podgorica	Yugoslav Dinar

The World Today

Nations, alphabetically arranged

UN Members

1. AFGHANISTAN

Islamic State of Afghanistan

Capital: Kabul; **Other Large Cities:** Kandahar, Herat, Mazare-Sharif; **Area:** 647,497 sq.km; **Population:** 32,738,376; **Languages:** Pushtu and Persian; **Religions:** Islam-99%; **Literacy:** 28.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 44.21; **p.c.i.:** \$ 800; **Date of Independence:** 19th August 1919.



Government Type: Islamic Republic;
President: Hamid Karzai.

History: Afghanistan is a landlocked republic in Central Asia known originally as Ariana or Bactria, then as Khorasan (the land of the Rising Sun). Ahmad Shah Durrani unified the Pashtun tribes and founded Afghanistan in 1747. Afghanistan lay between the expanding might of the Russian and British empires until it won independence from notional



British control in 1919. A brief experiment in democracy ended in a 1973 coup and a 1978 Communist counter-coup. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to prop up a pro-Communist regime, leading to a major confrontation that drew in the US and Afghanistan's neighbours. In 1986, Lt. Gen. Najibullah became president. The USSR withdrew in 1989 under relentless pressure by internationally supported anti-Communist mujahedin rebels. Subsequently a series of civil wars saw Kabul finally fall in 1996 to the Taliban (i.e. 'students of religion'), a hardline Pakistan-sponsored movement that emerged in 1994 to end the country's civil war and anarchy. Following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in New York city, a US, Allied and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance military action toppled the Taliban for sheltering Osama Bin Laden. In June 2002, Hamid Karzai, leader of the interim administration, was elected in a landslide vote to be the next president.

Economy: Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. The principal crop is wheat. Animal husbandry is important for meat, milk and wool. Chief mineral resource: natural gas. The main industrial activity is the manufacture of woollen and cotton textiles; traditional handicrafts and woven carpets are important exports. Afghanistan produces 3400 tonnes of opium worth (\$1.2b.) a year.

Mission in India: Embassy of Afghanistan, 5/50F, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26883602, 24103331, 24100412; Fax: 26875439.

Note: p.c.i.: per capita income denotes GNI per capita as measured on PPP dollars. HDI Rank denotes human development index rank as per UNDP Human Development Report 2007/08

161. St. Kitts and Nevis	Caribbean	Basseterre	Caribbean dollar
162. St. Lucia	Caribbean	Castries	Caribbean Dollar
163. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Caribbean	Kingstown	East Caribbean Dollar
164. Sudan	N. Africa	Khartoum	Sudanese Pound
165. Suriname	S. America	Paramaribo	Suriname Dollar
166. Swaziland	S. Africa	Mbabane	Lilangeni
167. Sweden	N. Europe	Stockholm	Krona
168. Switzerland	W. Europe	Berne	Swiss Franc
169. Syria	W. Asia	Damascus	Syrian Pound
170. Tajikistan	S.C. Asia	Dushanbe	Somoni
171. Tanzania	E. Africa	Dodoma	Tanzanian Shilling
172. Thailand	S.E. Asia	Bangkok	Baht
173. Togo	W. Africa	Lome	Franc CFA
174. Tonga	Oceania	Nuku'alofa	Paanga
175. Trinidad and Tobago	Caribbean	Port-of-Spain	Trinidad and Tobago Dollar
176. Tunisia	N. Africa	Tunis	Tunisian Dinar
177. Turkey	W. Asia	Ankara	Turkish Lira
178. Turkmenistan	S.C. Asia	Ashgabat	Manat
179. Tuvalu	Oceania	Fongafale(Funafuti)	Australian Dollar
180. Uganda	E. Africa	Kampala	Uganda Shilling
181. Ukraine	E. Europe	Kyiv	Hryvna
182. United Arab Emirates	W. Asia	Abu Dhabi	Dirham
183. United Kingdom	N. Europe	London	Pound Sterling
184. United States of America	N. America	Washington D.C.	Dollar
185. Uruguay	S. America	Montevideo	Uruguayan Peso
186. Uzbekistan	S.C. Asia	Tashkent	Som
187. Vanuatu	Oceania	Vila	Vatu
188. Venezuela	S. America	Caracas	Bolivar
189. Vietnam	S.E. Asia	Hanoi	Dong
190. Yemen	W. Asia	Sana'a	Rial
191. Zambia	E. Africa	Lusaka	Kwacha
192. Zimbabwe	E. Africa	Harare	Zimbabwe Dollar

Non-UN Members

1. Kosovo	Southeast Europe	Pristina
2. Palestine*	W. Asia	Ramallah
3. Sahrawi Arab Demo* Rep. (S.A.D.R.), Western Sahara	N. Africa	El-Aaiun
4. Turkish Cyprus	W. Asia	Nicosia
5. Taiwan	S. Asia	Taipei
6. Vatican City	S. Europe	Vatican City

S. Europe: Southern Europe; N. Europe: Northern Europe; E. Europe: Eastern Europe; S.E. Asia: South East Asia; S.C. Asia: South Central Asia; N. America: North America; C. America: Central America; M. Africa: Middle Africa.

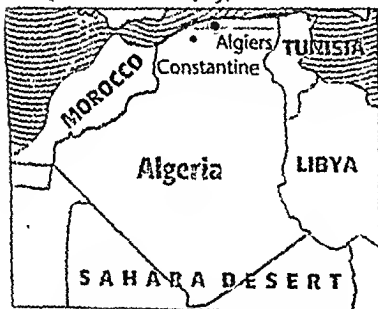
ies: textiles, woollen fabrics, leather
ls, petrol, cement, sugar, beer and
ettes.

ission in India: Embassy of Albania
oned at Cairo.

3. Algeria

ople's Democratic Republic of Algeria
(Al-3. Jumhuriya Al-Jaazainiya
ad-Dimuqratiya ash-Shabiya)

ipital: Algiers; **Other Large Cit-**
s: Oran, Constantine, Annaba;
rea: 2,381,741 sq.km; **Population:**
3,769,669; **Languages:** Arabic, Berber
nd French; **Religions:** Islam-99%; **Lit-**
racy: 69.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.77;
s.c.i: \$ 8,100.; **HDI rank:** 104; **Date of**
independence: 5th July, 1962.



Government Type: Republic; **Presi-**
dent: Abdelaziz Bouteflika. **PM:** Abdelaziz
Belkhadem.

History: Algeria,
formerly a French
colony, is an inde-
pendent republic
in north west Af-
rica and extends for



1000 km along the shores of the Mediter-
ranean. Algeria became an independent
republic in 1962.

More than a million Algerians were
killed in the fight for independence
from France in 1962, and the country
has recently emerged from a brutal con-
flict tht followed scrapped elections in
1992. In the 1990s Algerian politics was
dominated by the struggle involving the
military and Islamist militants. In 1992 a
general election won by an Islamist party
was annulled, heralding a bloody civil
war in which more than 150,000 people
were slaughtered. An amnesty in 1999
led many rebels to lay down their arms.
Violence has largely abated, although a
state of emergency remains in place.

Economy: The hydrocarbon sector
accounts for roughly 60% of budget
revenues, 30% of GDP and over 95%
of export earnings. Agricultural prod-
ucts include wheat, barley, potatoes,
artichokes, flax and tobacco. Fruits like
dates, pomegranates and figs grow
in abundance. Wine and olive oil are
also produced. Chief occupation: cattle
raising. Minerals: iron, zinc, mercury,
copper, antimony, phosphates and pe-
troleum. Industries: oil, light industry
food processing.

Mission in India: Embassy of th
People's Democratic Republic of Algeri
E-6/5, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-11005
Tel: 26146706, 26147036, 2614761
Fax: 26147033

E-mail: embalgindia@hotmail.com

Indian Mission in Algeria: Emba-
of India, 14, Rue des Abassides, Post B
No. 108 El-Bias- 16030 Algiers, Alge

No Longer Atheist

Albania was the only country that was officially atheist. Religion entered Albanian
life in 1990.

E-mail: afghanembassy@rediffmail.com

Indian Mission in Afghanistan (Temporarily closed): Embassy of India, Malalai Wat, Shahre-Nau, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Tel: 00-873-763095560; Fax : 00-873-763095561. E-mail: indembkabul@nicin

2. Albania

Republic of Albania
(Republika e Shqipërisë)

Capital: Tirana ; **Area:** 28,748 sq. km;
Population: 3,619,778; **Languages:** Albanian, Greek; **Religions:** Islam-70%, Christian-30%; **Literacy:** 98.7 %; **Life Expectancy:** 77.78; **p.c.i.:** \$ 5,500; **HDI rank:** 68; **Date of Independence:** 28th November, 1912.



Government Type: Democracy;
President: Bamir Topi; **PM:** Sali Berisha.

History: Albania lies on the west coast of the Balkan peninsula in south-east Europe. Albania got its name from an ancient Illyrian tribe, the Albanoit who occupied

the region many centuries ago. Albania remained under foreign dominance until the 20th century. During the first Balkan war in 1912, it declared its independence mainly through the interference of US president Woodrow Wilson. Republic was formed in 1920. After world War II, Albania became a Stalinist state under Enver Hoxha, and remained staunchly isolationist until its transition to democracy after 1990. The 1992 elections ended 47 years of communist rule. It became Europe's first muslim state in Dec. 1992.

Albania descended into anarchy and chaos in early 1997 when widespread protests over failed high-risk investment funds (pyramid finance scheme) turned into a drive to oust the government of Dr. Sali Berisha, which was blamed for allowing fraudulent investment schemes and accused of profiting from them. Violence erupted and Albanians fled by the thousands to Greece and Italy. Security Council authorised a UN force for Albania. Elections were held in June-July. Berisha quit in disgrace.

People are mostly Muslims. Public worship was outlawed in 1957. The right to practise religion was restored in 1990. Liberalisation measures included freedom to travel abroad. Albania left the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Aug. '98.

Economy: More than half of GDP comes from agriculture, though despite extensive terracing only around one-quarter of the country is suitable for arable farming. Important minerals: coal, oil, chrome, copper and nickel.

Wheat for Locusts

In locust-infested Afghanistan, local officials in Badghis and Herat promised 7 kg. of wheat in return for killing 1 kg of locusts.

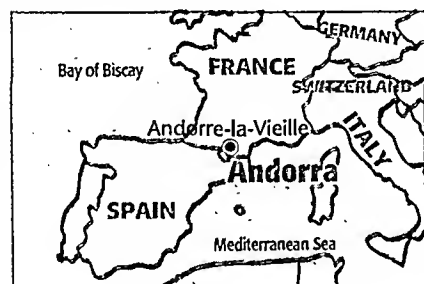
Tel: 00-213-21-923288; Fax: 00-213-2-924011.

E-mail: indemb@wissal.dz

4. Andorra

Principality of Andorra
(Principat d' Andorra)

Capital: Andorre-la-Vieille; **Area:** 464 sq.km; **Population:** 72,413; **Languages:** Catalan, French, Castilian; **Religions:** Christian-90%; **Literacy:** 100%; **Life Expectancy:** 83.53; **p.c.i:** \$ 38,800; **Date of Independence:** 1278 (was formed under the joined suzerainty of the French count of Foix and the Spanish bishop of Urgel).



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** President of France and the Bishop of Urgel (Spain) as co-princes. **Head of govt:** Albert Pintat Santolaria.

History: The co-principality of Andorra, founded in 1278, lies in the valleys of Eastern Pyrenees, between France and Spain.

Andorra, autonomous and semi-independent, got a constitution in 1993, adopted a parliamentary system and



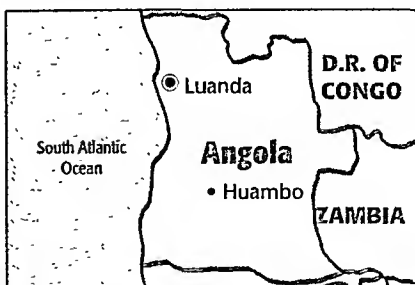
became the 184th member of the UN. It is nominally subject to the suzerainty of France and the Bishop of Urgel in Spain. The government is carried on by a council of 28 elected members.

Economy: Tourism accounts for more than 80% of GDP. Andorra is an agricultural country. Crops: cereals, potatoes and tobacco. Products: iron, lead, alum, stone and timber. Tourism, especially skiing, is the main source of income.

5. Angola

Republic of Angola
(Republica de Angola)

Capital: Luanda; **Other Large Cities:** Huambo, Lubango; **Area:** 1,246,699 sq.km; **Population:** 12,531,357; **Languages:** Portuguese, Bantu; **Religions:** Christian-95%; **Literacy:** 67.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 37.92; **p.c.i:** \$ 6,500; **HDI rank:** 162; **Date of Independence:** 11th November, 1975.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Jose Eduardo dos Santos; **PM:** Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos.

History: Angola, (formerly Portuguese West Africa),



World Population in A.D.I

The population of the world was about 200 million in A.D.1. It took 1400 years before the population doubled.

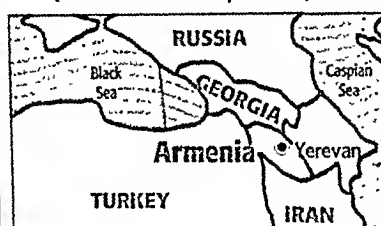
Indian Mission in Argentina:

Embassy of India, Avenida Cordoba 950, 4th Floor, (1054) Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel: 00-54-11-43934001, 00-54-11-43934156; Fax: 00-54-11-43934063. E-mail: indemb@indembarg.org.ar

8. Armenia

Republic of Armenia
(Haikakan Hanra-petoutioun)

Capital: Yerevan; **Other Large Cities:** Kirovakan, Kumairi; **Area:** 29,800 sq.km.; **Population:** 2,968,586; **Languages:** Armenian; **Religions:** Christian-98.7%; **Literacy:** 99.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.40; **p.c.i.:** \$ 5,700; **HDI rank:** 83; **Date of Independence:** 21st September, 1991.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Serzh Sargsian; **PM:** Tigran Sargsian.

History: A former Soviet republic, Armenia is bounded by Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran. Armenia is generally regarded as the first nation to formally adopt Christianity (early 4th century). Despite periods of autonomy, over the centuries Armenia came under the sway of various empires including the Roman

Byzantine, Arab, Persian and Ottoman. During World War I in the western portion of Armenia, Ottoman Turkey instituted a policy of forced resettlement coupled with other harsh practices that resulted in an estimated 1 million Armenian deaths. The eastern area of Armenia was ceded by the Ottomans to Russia in 1828; this portion declared its independence in 1918, but was conquered by the Soviet Red Army in 1920. Armenian leaders remain preoccupied by the long conflict with Muslim Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, a primarily Armenian populated region, assigned to Soviet Azerbaijan in the 1920s by Moscow. Armenia and Azerbaijan began fighting over the area in 1988.

Armenia has sought reunification with the Nagorno Karabakh autonomous region of neighbouring Azerbaijan. Soviet troops were sent to quell the ethnic civil war with Azerbaijan in Jan., 1990. Fighting between mostly Christian Armenia and mostly Muslim Azerbaijan escalated in '92 and continued in '93 and '94. A ceasefire was announced in May, '94. An earthquake in Dec., 1988 killed 55,000 and left 500,000 homeless.

Russia's staunch ally, Armenia signed a treaty in Apr. '97 allowing Russia to operate military bases in Armenia for 25 years.

Economy: It is a mountainous country with very fertile soil and extensive irrigation. Important crops: Grains, potatoes, olive, almonds, grapes, cotton, dairy products. Natural resources: Copper, zinc, aluminium, molybdenum, marble, granite, cement. Industry: Chemical, cement, textiles, food industries, carpet-weaving.

War Photography

Crimean War (Britain, France, Turkey, and Sardinia against Russia) saw the introduction of war photography and professional nursing.

Economy: The economy is agricultural. Main exports: Sugar and sea island cotton. Tourism is a major source of income. Manufactures: garments, fans, refrigerators and rum.

Mission in India: Embassy of Antigua & Barbuda stationed at New York.

Argentina

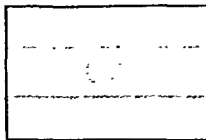
Argentine Republic
(Republica Argentina)

Capital: Buenos Aires; **Other Large Cities:** Cordoba, Rosario, La Plata, Mendoza; **Area:** 2,766,654sq.km; **Population:** 40,677,348; **Languages:** Spanish, Italian; **Religions:** Christian-79%-94%; **Literacy:** 97.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 76.52; **p.c.i:** \$ 13,000; **HDI rank:** 38; **Date of Independence:** 9th July, 1816



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Cristina Fernandez De Kirchner.

History: Argentina, the second largest state in S. America, lies at the tip of South America extending to some 3700 km from Bolivia to Cape Horn. Its



maximum width is 1500 km.

Argentines are of European descent, predominantly Italian. With the 1502 voyage of Amerigo Vespucci, Europeans arrived in the regions, which later on came to be known as Argentina. But the country was originally settled by the Spanish. In 1516, a Spanish navigator, Juan Diaz de Solias, visited the country. Later in 1580, Spain established a permanent colony on the site of Buenos Aires, the capital of present day Argentina. They further integrated Argentina into their empire and Buenos Aires became a flourishing port.

Later in 1816, Buenos formally declared independence from Spain and their hero was Jose de San Martino.

Argentina has been in the news in recent years because of severe economic problems, foreign debt and inflation.

In 2002, former dictator Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri was arrested and charged with the murder of suspected dissidents two decades ago.

Economy: Argentina abounds in deposits of coal, lead, copper, zinc, gold, silver, sulphur and oil. Meat packing is the chief industry, with flour milling coming second. Others are chemicals, textiles, machinery, motor vehicles, paper and consumer durables. Agriculture and animal husbandry form important segments of the economy. Chief crops: grains, maize, grapes, linseed, sugar, tobacco, rice, citrus fruits, livestock products. Argentina is the world's largest source of tannin.

Mission in India: Embassy of Argentine Republic, A-2/6, Vasant Vihar, Delhi-10057; Tel: 4166 1982; Fax: 4166 1983; mail: eindi@mantraonline.com

UN at 40

On its 40th birthday (in 1985) the UN had 159 members. As many as 25 from Africa and 37 from Asia.

Over the next two centuries, European explorers and traders continued to chart the coastline of Australia, then known as New Holland. In 1688, William Dampier became the first British explorer to land on the Australian coast. It was not until 1770 that another Englishman, captain James Cooke, aboard the Endeavour, extended a scientific voyage to the South Pacific in order to further chart the east coast of Australia and claim it for the British crown. Six colonies were created in the late 18th and 19th centuries; they federated and became commonwealth of Australia in 1901. The non-indigenous population at the time of Federation was 3.8 million. Half of these lived in cities, three-quarters were born in Australia, and the majority were of English, Scottish or Irish descent.

Australia is a Federation with power divided broadly between the national government and the state governments. The states are New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

About 352,970 people identified themselves as being of indigenous origin, at the 1996 census. About half the aborigines live in cities or towns. They participate at all levels of life of the Australian community. Many aborigines still live in the remote areas of Australia and prefer traditional tribal oriented lifestyles. The boomerang was invented by the aborigines who have been there for more than 40,000 years.

In March 1986, Queen Elizabeth II signed the Proclamation of the Australia Act 1986, which severed Australia's last

remaining constitutional links with Britain. Queen Elizabeth is formally Queen of Australia. In Feb., 98 Australians discussed at a constitutional convention whether to become a republic, with majority of delegates thinking that British queen as head of state is an outdated idea. However, opinion polls favoured monarchists.

Economy: Australia has now developed into a modern industrial nation built upon the solid foundation of an efficient and productive agricultural system and large reserves of minerals. Australia is an important producer and exporter of a wide range of agricultural products especially wool (Australia is the world's leading wool producer), wheat and meat and its mines provide minerals and metals of many types including coal, iron-ore, bauxite, gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, nickel, oil and natural gas for use by local and overseas industries. The largest employer is the retail sector, but many others work in catering-which also involves feeding more than four million tourists who arrive each year. The three best known icons of the country are Ayers Rock, the Great Barrier Reef and the Sydney Opera House, in addition to a bevy of world-class theme and heritage parks.

Australia has many unique plant and animal species including kangaroos, koalas, platypuses, dingos, Tasmanian devils, wombats and frilled lizards.

Australian external territories: Norfolk Island, Coral Sea Islands Territory, Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Island, Kiribati (Christmas Island) and Australian Antarctic Territory, the Heard Island and Mc Donald Islands.

Mission in India: High Commis-

A Test Drive to Remember

An Australian was arrested in March, 08 after he went on a test drive in a new car taken from a Melbourne showroom. The test drive lasted 6,200 km and five days.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, D-133, Anand Niketan, New Delhi-110021; Tel: 2411 2851, 2411 2852; Fax: 2411 2853. E-mail: armemb@vsnl.com

Indian Mission in Armenia: Embassy of India, 50/2, Dzorapi Street, Yerevan-375019; Tel: 00-374-10-539173; Fax: 00-374-10-533984. E-mail: hoc@embassyofindia.am

9. Australia

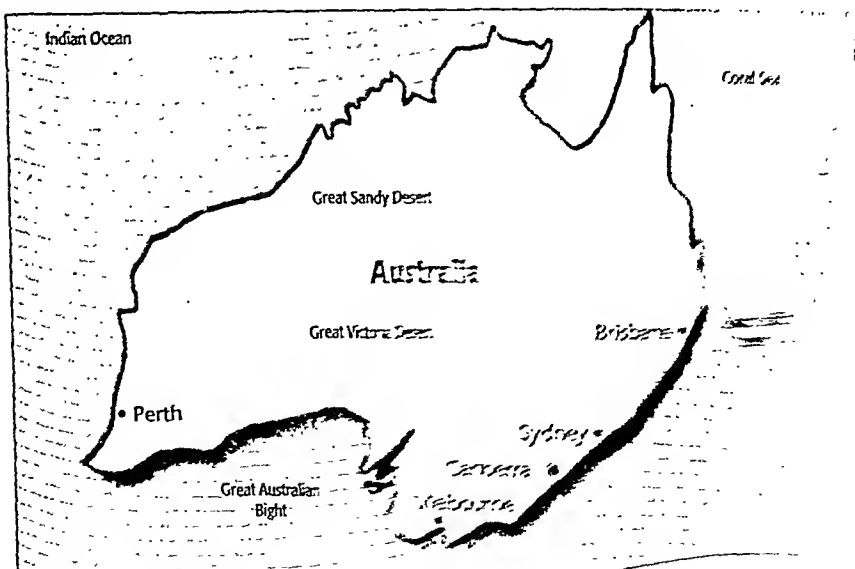
Commonwealth of Australia

Capital: Canberra; **Other Large Cities:** Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide; **Area:** 7,682,300 sq. km; **Population:** 20,600,856; **Languages:** English and aboriginal languages; **Religions:** Christian-64%, unspecified - 11.6 %, none-19%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Ex-**

pectancy: 80.73; p.c.h. 137,500; **UN rank:** 3; **Date of Independence:** 1 January, 1901.

Government Type: Democracy; **Governor-General:** Maj. Gen. Michael Jeffery; **PM:** Kevin Rudd.

History: Before the arrival of European settlers, Ab-
original and Torres Strait Islander peoples inhabited most areas of the Australian continent. The first recorded European contact with Australia was in March 1606, when Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon charted the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, Queensland. Later that year, the Spanish explorer Luis Vaez de Torres sailed through the strait separating Australia and Papua New Guinea.

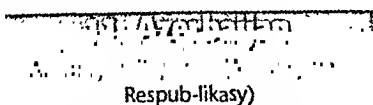


The Carlingbah Oval has been named in honour of retired Australian cricketer Bob Carlingbah.

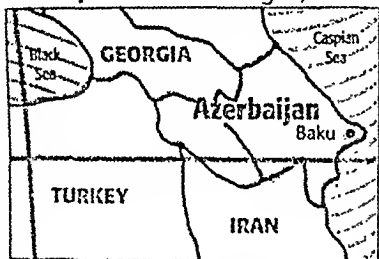
E-mail: new-delhi-ob@bmaa.gv.at

Indian Mission in Austria: Embassy of India and Permanent Mission of India to the UN Offices in Vienna, Kaemtnerng, 1010 Vienna, Austria. Tel: 00-43-1-058666; Fax: 00-43-1-5059219

E-mail: indemb@eoivien.vienna.at; Web: www.indiaembassy.at



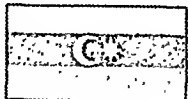
Capital: Baku; **Other Large Cities:** Gandja, Sumgait; **Area:** 86,600 sq.km; **Population:** 8,177,717; **Languages:** Azeri, Turkish, Russian; **Religions:** Islam-93.4%; **Literacy:** 98.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 66.31; **p.c.i.:** \$ 9,000; **HDI rank:** 98; **Date of Independence:** 30th August, 1991.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Ilham Aliyev; **PM:** Arthur Raszade.

History: Azerbaijan was briefly independent from 1918 to 1920; It regained its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In Jan. 90, there were violent disturbances in Baku and on the Armenian

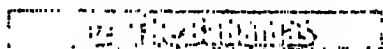


border over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijanis are Muslims and Armenians Christians. Inside Azerbaijan is Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-majority region. Inside Armenia is Nakhichevan autonomous republic, which is a part of Azerbaijan. Fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia escalated in 1992, '93 & '94.

Economy: Azerbaijan's number one export is oil. Agricultural products: Grain, cotton, grapes, fruits, vegetables, tobacco, silk, dairy products. Natural resources: oil, iron, aluminium, copper, lead, zinc, precious metals, limestone, salt. Industry: Oil, copper, chemical, building material, food, timber, textiles, fishing.

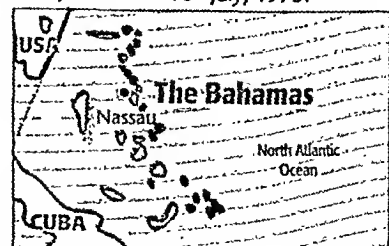
Indian Mission in Azerbaijan: Embassy of India, 31/39 Oktay Karimov Street, Ganjlik, District-Narimanov, Baku-370069, Azerbaijan. Tel: 00-99-412-474186, 416053. Fax: 00-994-12-472572.

E-mail: eibaku@adanet.az



Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Capital: Nassau; **Area:** 13,939 sq.km; **Population:** 307,451 **Languages:** English, Creole; **Religions:** Christian-96.3%; **Literacy:** 95.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 65.72; **p.c.i.:** \$ 22,700; **HDI rank:** 49; **Date of Independence:** 10th July, 1973.



The Hellenic Republic

Greece is officially called the Hellenic Republic. Stamp collectors will see the name 'Hellas' on the stamps of Greece.

sion for Australia, 1/50-G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 41399900; Fax: 4149 4491, 2688 7536. E-mail: austhighcom.newdelhi@dfat.gov.au

Mission in Australia: High Commission of India, 3-5, Moonah Place, Yarralumla, Canberra ACT-2600, Australia. Tel: 00-61-2-62733999; 62733774, 00-61-2-62735479 (After office hours); Fax: 00-61-2-62731308, 6273328 (HC Office).

E-mail: hco@hcinia-au.org

10. Austria

Republic of Austria (Republik Österreich)

Capital: Vienna; **Other Large Cities:** Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck; **Area:** 83,858 sq. km; **Population:** 8,205,533; **Languages:** German; **Religions:** Christians-81.4%, Islam-4.2%; **Literacy:** 98%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.36; **p.c.i.:** \$ 39,000; **HDI rank:** 15; **Date of Independence:** 1156.



Government Type: Federal Republic; **President:** Heinz Fischer; **Head of Govt:** Chancellor: Alfred Gusenbauer

History: Famous for its spectacular mountains scenery, Austria is no longer the dominant political force

it was in Central Europe under the Hapsburg dynasty which ruled under the first world war.

A republic since 1918, Austria, which was invaded by Nazi Germany in 1938, regained full sovereignty in 1955. Austria is a federal state of nine provinces. Austria joined the EU on Jan. 1, 1995. Over 65 per cent of the country is mountainous. The Danube is the main river. Forests cover about 40 per cent of the land, a greater proportion than in any other European country, apart from Sweden and Finland. The highest mountain is the Grossglockner (12,465').

Economy: It depends mainly on mining, manufacturing, trade and services. Most Austrians are now employed in service industries, from banking to transport. Main agricultural products: livestock, forest products, grains, sugar beets, potatoes.

Austria is rich in mineral and energy resources and both mining and energy production are nationalized industries. The country is the world's largest producer of magnesite, used in the chemical industry. Other minerals mined include iron ore, lignite (brown coal), graphite, salt, quartz and clay. Austria is the world's fifth largest exporter of coniferous sawn timber. Services account for the largest part of GDP.

Mission in India: High Commission of India, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 41399900; Fax: 4149 4491, 2688 7536. E-mail: austhighcom.newdelhi@dfat.gov.au

85%

Smuggling in India

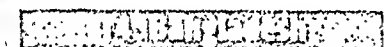
Native beetles from Australia... can men caused suspicion in Australia... trying to smuggle the 1370 beetles for the US...

billion in offshore banking assets. Financial institutions are attracted by a skilled work force, good communications and a regulatory system considered the most effective in the region. The country long ago branched into industries such as aluminium refining, ship repair and petrochemicals. It also does a tidy business as a tourist destination for Saudis.

Mission in India: 4, Olof Palme Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057; Tel: 2615 4153, 2615 4154; Fax: 26146731. **Consulate:** 53, Maker Tower F, 5th Floor, Cuffe Parade Road, Colaba, Mumbai-400005. Tel: 2218 5856; Fax: 2218 8817

Indian Mission in Bahrain: Embassy of India, Building 182, Road 2608, Area 326, Ghudaibiya, P.O. Box No. 26106, Adliya, Bahrain. Tel: 00-973-712683, 713832, 712785; Fax: 00-973-715527.

E-mail: hoc@indianembassy-bah-com
Website: <http://www.indianembassy-bh.com>



(People's Republic of Bangladesh; Gana Prajatan Bangladesh)

Capital: Dhaka; **Other Large Cities:** Chittagong, Khulna; **Area:** 148,393 sq.km; **Population:** 153,546,901; **Language:**



languages: Bangla, Chakma, Magh; **Religions:** Islam-83%, Hindu-16%; **Literacy:** 43.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 63.21; **p.c.i:** \$1,400; **HDI rank:** 140; **Date of Independence:** 16th December, 1971.

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Iajuddin Ahmed; **Head of Interim Government:** Fakhruddin Ahmed.

History: Bangladesh is surrounded by India, Myanmar and the Bay of Bengal.

A republic in south Asia, Bangladesh was formerly East Pakistan, one of the five provinces into which Pakistan

was divided at its creation, when Britain's former Indian Empire was partitioned in August 1947. East Pakistan and the four western provinces were separated by about 1,600 km of Indian territory. East Pakistan was formed from the former Indian province of East Bengal and the Sylhet district of Assam. Although the East was more populous, government was based in West Pakistan. From the very inception of its formation, language remained the most problematic issue. Same status for Bengali language with Urdu and English was the demand and the movement involving all sections of the people of East Pakistan gave a strike call on 21 Feb, 1952. On that very day, police fired on a students' rally and several students died. Since then the day has been observed as the Language Day (Bhasa Divas).

East Pakistan became an independent entity named Bangladesh on 16 December, 1971, following civil war in which India actively supported the East. Leader of this independence movement, Sheikh

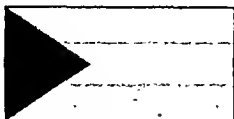
The Deadliest Cyclone

The deadliest cyclone in history occurred in 1970. The victim: East Pakistan (today's Bangladesh). Half a million were killed.

Government Type: Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy; **Governor-General:** D. Hanna; **PM:** Hubert A. Ingraham.

History: The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is an archipelago lying off the south-east coast of Florida. The Bahamas consists of more than 700 islands and over 1000 cays and rocks. Only about 30 islands are inhabited. The largest island is Andros but New Providence is the most populous. The capital Nassau is situated on this island. Eighty-five per cent of the population is Negro, the rest are Europeans.

Economy: Fishing constitutes the main occupation. Vegetables and fruits are also grown. Industries: Tourism accounts for around 40% of GDP and employs a similar proportion of the workforce. Tourism (70% of GDP), banking and investment management.



Islam - 81.2%, Christian - 9%, ; **Literacy:** 86.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 74.92; **p.c.i:** \$34,700; **HDI rank:** 41; **Date of Independence:** 15th August, 1971.

Government Type: Constitutional Hereditary Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa; **PM:** Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al-Khalifa.

History: Bahrain is an Arab state comprising 33 small islands in the Arabian Gulf. Bahrain is the biggest of the islands and has lent its name to the whole archipelago. It is an independent monarchy.



The traditional occupations of cattle breeding, agriculture and fishing are still practised but many modern industries have also come up. Oil accounted for the lion's share of the state revenues but by 1970s, oil reserves were depleted. International banking is a major activity today.

Economy: Agriculture: Fruits and vegetables, alfalfa, dates, poultry. Industry: Aluminium, ship building & repairs, electronics assembly, building materials, and banking. The people enjoy a very high standard of living. Education is free upto the secondary level and heavily subsidised with scholarships at higher levels. The population is 83% urban. Every fourth resident of Bahrain is an Indian.

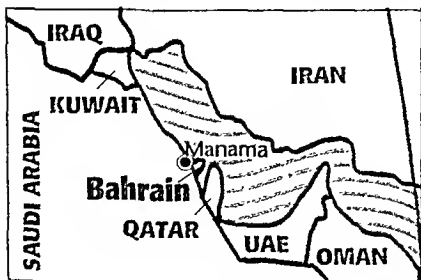
Petroleum production and refining account for about 60% of export receipts, 60% of government revenues, and 30% of GDP. A large number of exports consist of petroleum products made from refining imported crude.

This archipelago manages some 85%

13. Bahrain

State of Bahrain/Dawlat al-Bahrayn

Capital: Manama; **Area:** 669 sq .km.; **Population:** 718,306; **Languages:** Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu; **Religions:**



Rotating Earth

The rotation of the Earth was demonstrated by French physicist Jean F He used his invention the Foucault pendulum to prove that earth rotate:

pendence in 1971, the US Secretary of State dismissed the new country as an international basket-case'.

Mission in India: High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, EP-39, Dr.S.Radhakrishnan Marg, Chankyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021. Tel: 2412 1389-94; Fax: 26878953.

E-mail: dhcdelhi@mantraonline.com

Indian Mission in Bangladesh: High Commission of India. House No. 2, Road No.142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tel: 00-8802-9889339. E-mail: hoc@hcidhakha.org.

15. Barbados

Capital: Bridgetown; **Area:** 430 sq km; **Population:** 281,968; **Languages:** English; **Religions:** Christian-67%; **Literacy:** 99.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.21; **p.c.i.:** \$ 19,700; **HDI rank:** 31; **Date of Independence:** 30th November, 1966.



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II; **Governor-General:** Sir Clifford Husbands; **PM:** David Thompson.

History: The island of Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean islands, lying about 400 km north east of the mainland of South America. It is included in



the Windward Isles. British settlers arrived in 1627. Slavery existed until 1834. Barbados became fully self-governing within the Commonwealth on Nov. 30, 1966. In 1997, a commission was appointed to consider abandoning all ties to Britain.

Economy: Agriculture and tourism dominate the economy of Barbados. Sugar, molasses, rum, electrical components and chemicals are major exports.

The island's economy has become diversified, thus reducing the importance of sugar. Services, especially tourism, are now the main source of employment. Industry: Light manufacturing, electronic component, sugar, food processing, beverages, rum, beer. Barbados' Wildlife Reserve is home to two species of animals unique to the island-the green monkey and the large red-footed tortoise.

16. Belarus

(Republic of Belarus) Republika Belarus
Capital: Minsk; **Other Large Cities:** Gomel, Vitebsk; **Area:** 207,600 sq.km.; **Population:** 9,685,768; **Languages:**



Age of the Earth

In 1846 the Irish physicist William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) estimated, using the temperature of the Earth, that the Earth is 100 m. years old.

Mujibur Rahman became the first Prime Minister.

In January 1975 parliamentary government was replaced by a presidential form of government. Sheikh Mujib became President, assuming absolute power. In February, Bangladesh became a one-party state.

On 15 August, 1975 Sheikh Mujib and his family were assassinated in a coup. Chief of Army Staff, Major-Gen. Ziaur Rahman (Gen. Zia) took over power on 7 November, 1975. In June 1978 the country's first direct presidential election resulted in a victory for Zia, who formed a Council of Advisers. Parliamentary elections followed in February 1979 in which President Ziaur Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won 207 of the 300 directly elective seats in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Political instability recurred, however, when Gen. Ziaur was assassinated on 30 May 1981 during an attempted military coup. The elderly Vice-President, Justice Abdus Sattar, took over as acting President but was faced with strikes and demonstrations over the execution of several officers who had been involved in the coup.

On 24 March, 1982 there was a bloodless military coup, by which Lieut. Gen. Ershad became chief martial law administrator. President Sattar was deposed. The Constitution was suspended and parliament ceased to function. Assanuddin Chowdhury was sworn in as civilian president on 27 March. Lieut. Gen. Ershad assumed the presidency on 11 Dec., 1983.

Although the Government's economic policies achieved some success and gained a measure of popular support for Ershad, the all party alliance of MRD—Movement for the Restoration of Democracy—gained momentum.

In Jan. 1986 a National Executive Committee was formed and the National Party launched, composed of government supporters. Gen. Ershad was re-elected President on 15 October, 1986. The National Party won the general election of March 1988.

Gen. Ershad was deposed and arrested after a popular uprising in December 1990. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed took over as Acting President. In the general elections held in February 1991 Bangladesh National Party led by Begum Khaleda Zia won 140 seats. Begum Zia was sworn in PM. In the general elections held in June, 1996, Awami League won 146 seats and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, daughter of the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, became the PM of Bangladesh. Jatiya Party quit the govt. in Mar. '98.

Tribal Shanti Bahini guerrillas fighting for autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts surrendered in Feb. '98, ending a 25-year insurgency that claimed more than 8500 lives.

Economy: Although half of Bangladesh's GDP is generated through the service sector, nearly two-thirds of the people are employed in the agriculture sector, with rice as the single-most-important product. Plots of land are very small-measured in tenths of a hectare. Half the population still cannot afford to feed themselves properly. At 1998

Think Potato, Grow Potato. Eat Potato

This was the slogan for a potato festival in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The govt. urged people to adopt the humble spud in place of the more expensive rice.

try is concentrated mainly in the Flemish area in the north. Crops are oats, rye, wheat, barley and sugar beets. Coal is the country's only important mineral. Industries: steel and metal products, glass, fertiliser, sugar, heavy machinery, etc. Antwerp is the world's 4th largest port and also the world's biggest diamond-trading centre.

Language difference has been a source of uneasiness. Transferring power from the central govt. to three regions—Flanders and Brussels—has been taken up by parliament. The European Community has its headquarters in Brussels.

Mission in India: Royal Embassy of Belgium, 50-N, Shantipath, Chanakya Vihar, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 4242 0000; Telefax: 4242 8002.

E-mail: ambabel@del2.vsnl.net.in
Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai: Morena 11, M.L. Dahanukar Marg (Carmichael Road, Mumbai-400 026; Ph: +91 22 23515186, 23521602)

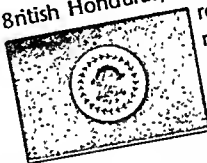
Indian Mission in Belgium: Embassy of India, 217-Chaussee de Vleurgat, 1050, Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 00-32-2-6409140; Fax: 00-32-2-6489638.

E-mail: hoc@indembassy.be



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Governor-General:** Colville Young; **PM:** Dean Barrow.

History: Belize, formerly known as British Honduras, is a Central American republic with the Caribbean Sea to the east. Originally a British colony, it was granted autonomy in 1964 and became independent in 1981. The name Belize was adopted in 1973. The original capital, Belize City was laid waste by a hurricane in 1961. The capital was shifted to Belmopan, an inland town, in 1970.



More than half the population is made up of the so-called Creoles or English-speaking Negroes, found mostly in the coastal regions. The indigenous (Red) Indian population consists of Mayans and Kekchis who live mostly in the reserves.

Economy: Forest products, especially timber, form a major export item. Sugar, citrus fruits, corn and bananas form major products. Maize, rice, kidney beans and sweet potatoes are the main domestic staples. Industries: Sugar, molasses, cigarettes, beer, garments, tourism. Life includes the curious creature man.

Capital: Belmopan; **Other Large Cities:** Belize City, Orange Walk; **Area:** 22,965 sq. km; **Population:** 301,270; **Languages:** English, Spanish, Creole dialects; **Religions:** Christian-79%; **Literacy:** 76.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 68.19; **p.c.i.:** \$ 7,800; **HDI rank:** 80; **Date of Independence:** 21st September, 1981.

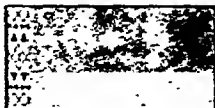
A Momentous Decade

As many as 43 countries joined the UN in the 1960s. Thirty two of them were former European colonies in Africa.

Belorussian, Russian; Religions: Christian-96%; p.c.i: \$ 10,200; HDI rank: 64; Date of Independence: 25th August, 1991.

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State:** Aleksandr Lukashenko; **PM:** Sergei Sidorsky.

History: After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR,



Belarus attained its independence in 1991. It has retained closer political and economic ties to Russia than any of the other former soviet republics. Russians form 13.2% of the population, Poles 4.1% and Ukrainians 2.9%.

In April, 1997, Belarus and Russia concluded a union treaty calling for the gradual creation of a confederation between the two Slavic nations.

Economy: Agriculture: Cattle-breeding for meat and dairy produce. Important products: Potato, hemp, grain, flax, fodder. Natural resources: Valuable forest land wooded with oak, elm, maple; peat deposits. Industry: motor vehicle, machine tools, agricultural machinery, peat, chemical fibre, paper, building materials, food processing, textile.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Belarus, 163, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110 003. Tel: 2469 4518, 2469 7025; Fax: 2469 7029.

E-mail: india@belembassy.org

Indian Mission in Belarus: Embassy of India, Ulitsa Koltsova 4, Block No.5, Minsk 220090, Belarus. Tel: 00-375-17-2629399, 267739; Fax: 00-375-17-2629799.

E-mail: ambsdr@indemb.minsk.by

07: Belgium

Kingdom of Belgium, Koninkrijk Bekgie (Dutch), Royaume de Belgique (French)

Capital: Brussels; **Other Large Cities:** Antwerp, Ghent; **Area:** 30,521 sq.km; **Population:** 10,403,951; **Languages:** Flemish, French and German—all official; **Religions:** Christian-77.5%, Atheist-17.3%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.07; p.c.i: \$ 36,500; HDI rank: 17; Date of Independence: 4th October, 1830.



Government Type: Federal Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** King Albert II; **PM:** Yves Leterme.

History: Belgium (in NW Europe on N. Sea) named after the Belgae, people of ancient Gaul who crossed the Rhine about the 6th century B.C., has had a turbulent history. During both the World Wars it was occupied by Germany but freed itself by the end of those wars. Belgium became a Federal State in February, 1993.



Economy: Although Belgium is essentially a manufacturing country, agriculture and forestry are also very im-

The First Cities

It was in south-western Asia that the first cities grew up. By 3500 B.C. River Euphrates, had a population of about 80,000.

Wangchuk; **Head of Govt.:**

Geography: The Kingdom of Bhutan, the 'Land of the Dragon', lies in the eastern Himalayas, bordered by China and India. It has very high mountains, fertile valleys and thick forests.



The first hereditary King of Bhutan, Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, was installed on 17 Dec. 1907. An Anglo-Bhutanese Treaty, signed in 1910, placed Bhutan's foreign relations under the supervision of the Government of British India. After India became independent, that treaty was replaced in Aug. 1949 by the Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Friendship, whereby Bhutan agrees to seek the advice of the Government of India with regard to its foreign relations, but remains free to decide whether or not to accept such advice.

King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk was succeeded in 1972 by the Western-educated 16-year-old Crown Prince, Jigme Singye Wangchuk. The new King stated his wish to maintain the Indo-Bhutan Treaty and to strengthen friendship with India.

Bhutan joined the UN in 1971 and the Non-Aligned Movement in 1973. In 1983 Bhutan became a founder-member of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Bhutan is a monarchy, without a written constitution. In 1907 the Tongsa Penlop (the governor of the province of Tongsa in central Bhutan), Sir Ugyen Wangchuk, was elected the first hereditary Maharaja of Bhutan. The Bhutanese title is Druk

Gyalpo and his successor is now known as King of Bhutan. From Oct. 1969 the absolute monarchy was changed to a form of democratic monarchy. The National Assembly (Tshogdu) was reconstituted in 1953. All Bhutanese over 25 years may be candidates. Ten monastic representatives are elected by the central and regional ecclesiastical bodies, while the remaining members are nominated by the King, and include members of the Council of Ministers (the Cabinet) and the Royal Advisory Council. The Royal Advisory Council (Lor Tsokde), established in 1965, comprises 10 members. Council of Ministers is known as Lhengye Shungtsog.

Recent reports indicate that the mountain kingdom is inching towards democracy. A political transformation is under way, its main force being the reformist former monarch Jigme Wangchuk. A Royal edict placed before the 510-member National Assembly in June '98 said a two-thirds majority in the House could force the king to abdicate. The Assembly (its term: 5 years) will also throw up the Council of Ministers, one of whom will remain as chairman for a year. A draft constitution was released in Dec. 2002.

Economy: There are 20 districts. Nepalese minority makes up 30% of the population. Bhutan, by world standards is one of the poorest countries. Its economy is largely a subsistence economy. People are engaged in terrace farming; and barter is prevalent. The transition to market economy has changed social life. Urban population is 7%. Large deposits of limestone, dolomite, graphite, lead, copper, coal, talc, gypsum, beryl, mica.

On the Frontier of Tibet

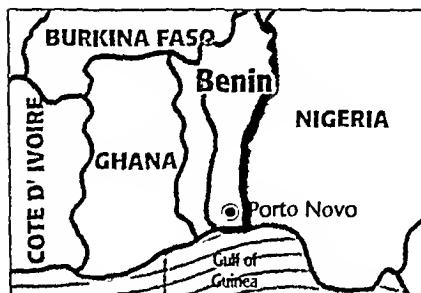
The name Bhutan comes from the Sanskrit words 'Bhyot' (Tibet) and 'an' (frontier). The Himalayan kingdom lies on the frontier of Tibet.

– an amphibian mammal– and several varieties of reptiles.

19. Benin

Republic of Benin, Republique du Benin

Capital: Porto Novo; **Other Large Cities:** Cotonou, Parakau; **Area:** 112,622 sq.km.; **Population:** 8,294,941; **Languages:** French and Tribal dialects like Fon, Yoruba; **Religions:** Christian-42.8%, Islam-24.4%; **Literacy:** 34.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 53.85; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,500; **HDI rank:** 163; **Date of Independence:** 1st August, 1960.



Government Type: Republic under multiparty democratic rule; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Yayi Boni.

History: The People's Republic of Benin (formerly Dahomey) is located north of the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa.



It is one of the smallest and most densely populated states in Africa.

The country has been plagued by coups and counter-coups. For some years Marxism-Leninism was the state

ideology.

The first free presidential elections in 30 years were held in 1991. President Kerekou was re-elected in March, 2001.

Economy: Products: palm oil, kemels, peanuts, cotton, coffee and tobacco. Food crops: Cassava, yams, maize, sorghum. Industry: Few factories. Palm oil processing, brewing, sugar.

Mission in India: Embassy of Benin stationed at Beijing.

Honorary Consulate General, C-4, Sector-7, Noida, UP; Tel: 95120-24423373, 24423257; E-mail: sundert@ndf.vsnl.net.in

20. Bhutan

(Kingdom of Bhutan) Druk-Yul

Capital: Thimphu; **Area:** 46,500 sq.km; **Population:** 682,321; **Languages:** Dzongkha, Lhotsam (Nepali), English, Gurung, Assamese; **Religions:** Buddhist-75%, Hindu & Nepalese-25%; **Literacy:** 47%; **Life Expectancy:** 65.53; **p.c.i:** \$1,400; **HDI rank:** 133; **Date of Independence:** 8th August, 1949.



Government Type: Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Jigme Khesar

Research on Belief in God

University of Oxford researchers are to spend £2 m. in a 3-year programme to determine why mankind believes in God. Faith in God is a universal human impulse found in most cultures, though it has been waning in western Europe.

antimony and tungsten are the other important minerals. Mining accounts for about 70% of foreign exchange earnings. Other industries: Textiles, food processing, refined petroleum. A privatisation programme affecting some 60 state-owned enterprises was launched in 1992. On August 5, 2002 Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, a millionaire businessman, was again elected to lead the nation for the next five years.

Mission in India: Embassy of Bolivia stationed at New York.

22. Bosnia-Herzegovina

(Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Republika Bosna i Hercegovina

Capital: Sarajevo; **Other Large Cities:** Banja Luka, Tuzla, Mostar; **Area:** 51,129 sq km; **Population:** 4,590,310; **Languages:** Serbo-Croatian; **Religions:** Christian-50%, Muslim-40%; **Literacy:** 96.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.33; **p.c.i.:** \$6,600; **HDI rank:** 66; **Date of Independence:** 1st March, 1992.



Government Type: Federal Democratic Republic; **Presidency Chairman:** Haris Silajdzic, **Presidency Member (Serb):** Nebojsa Radmanovic; **Presidency Member (Bosniac):** Haris Silajdzic, **Presi-**

dency Member (Croat): Zeljko Komšić; **Presidency Head of Govt:** Nikola Spiric.

Republic of former Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina is traditionally known as the powder keg of the Balkans, with its explosive ethnic mix of three groups (Muslim Slav-43%; Serbs-31%; Croats-17%; others-9%) and its three religions (Muslims-40%, Catholics-15% and Orthodox-31%).

History: The country was settled by Slavs in the 7th century. Bosnia was conquered by Turks in 1463. At the



Congress of Berlin (1878), the territory was assigned to Austro-Hungarian administration

under nominal Turkish suzerainty. Austria-Hungary's outright annexation in 1908 generated international tension which contributed to the outbreak of World War I.

Croats and Muslims voted for independence in Oct. 1991. A referendum for independence was passed in Feb. 1992. A 'Serbian republic' was formed in the predominantly Serb-populated Bosnian territories. Severe opposition to the referendum sparked violent clashes. In April, independence of the republic was recognised by the UN and E.U. Fierce fighting continued. Some 100,000 were massacred thousands of Bosnian civilians. By mid-'94 three-fourths of Bosnia came under Serb control.

Peace talks were held but Serb-Muslim-Croat fighting continued. In 1995 negotiations resumed to partition Bosnia. In July an ineffective ceasefire was imposed. A peace plan authored by USA

The Beginning of Microbiology

By establishing that micro-organisms are responsible for fermentation, French chemist Louis Pasteur created the discipline of microbiology.

and tufa have been found.

Chief crops: Rice, millet, wheat, barley, maize, cardamom, potatoes, oranges, apples. Extensive and valuable forests abound. Livestock includes cattle, yaks, pigs, sheep and goats, and poultry. Industry: Food industry, cement, etc. Trade with India dominates.

Free education is available, but there are insufficient facilities to accommodate all school age children. Many students receive higher technical training in India.

All Bhutanese nationals are obliged to wear the national costume. Under law, Bhutanese women are treated as equal to men.

Though Bhutan for long resisted the lure of tourism, it is the principal source of foreign exchange now. The Kingdom was opened to tourism in the autumn of 1974.

Mission in India: Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Chandra Gupta Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 2688 9807, 2688 9809, 2688 9230; Fax: 2687 6710, 2467 4664.

E-mail: bhutan@vsnl.com

Indian Mission in Bhutan: Embassy of India, India House Estate, Thimphu, Bhutan. Tel: 00-975-2-322162; Fax: 00-975-2-323195, 325341.

E-mail: hocbht@druknet.bt

21. Bolivia

(Republic of Bolivia) Republic de Bolivia

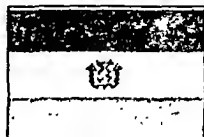
Capital: La Paz (administrative) and Sucre (judicial); **Other Large Cities:** Santa Cruz, Potosi; **Area:** 1,098,581 sq.km; **Population:** 9,247,816; **Languages:** Spanish, Quechua and Aymara; **Religions:** Christian-97%; **Literacy:**

86.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 66.53; **p.c.i.:** \$4,400; **HDI rank:** 117; **Date of Independence:** 6th August, 1825.



Government Type: Republic; Head of State & PM(President): Juan Evo Morales.

History: Bolivia, a South American state, lies astride the Andes.



Originally part of the ancient Inca Empire, Bolivia became independent in 1825. It has been named after Simon Bolivar, the famous South American fighter for freedom. Bolivia, like most Latin American states, has had a number of coups and counter-coups. It restored civilian rule in 1982 after nearly 18 years of military regimes.

Lake Titicaca on the Peru-Bolivian border is the highest lake in the world (3812 m).

Economy: Agriculture, the mainstay of the country, engages 70 per cent of the people. Chief crops: Potatoes, sugar, coffee, corn. Tin mining was the most important industry, until 1985 when international tin market collapsed. Zinc, lead,

Named After a Tree

A country is named after a tree. The country is Brazil and the tree brazil!

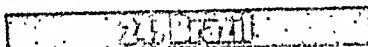
tion growth rate 3.5%. The country is divided into 10 districts.

Economy: Diamond mining accounts for more than one-third of GDP and for 70-80% of export earnings. Tourism, financial services, subsistence farming, and cattle rearing are the other key sectors. Important crops: Sorghum, corn, millet, beans. Diamonds, manganese, asbestos, coal, copper and nickel are leading mineral resources. The economy is closely tied to that of South Africa.

Misslon in India: High Commission of the Republic of Botswana, F-8/3, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057; Tel: 4653 7000; Fax: 4603 6191

Indian Misslon in Botswana: High Commission of India, Plot 5375, President's Drive, Private Bag 249, Gaborone, Botswana. Tel: 00-267-372676; Fax: 00-267-374636.

E-mail: hicomind@info.bw



(Federative Republic of Brazil) - República Federativa do Brasil

Capital: Brasilia; **Other Large Cities :** Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Recife, Salvadore; **Area:** 8,511,965 sq.km; **Population:** 191,908,598; **Languag-**



es: Portuguese (official), Spanish, English, French; **Religions:** Christian-89%; **Literacy:** 88.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.51; **p.c.i:** \$ 9,700; **HDI rank:** 70; **Date of Independence:** 7th September, 1822.

Government Type: Federative Republic; **President:** Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

History: Brazil, the largest South American state, lies more or less in the centre of South America. It borders every nation on the continent except Chile and Ecuador. It is a land of dense forests and mighty rivers. The Amazon and the Sao Francisco cover the north of the country.



Brazil was a Portuguese settlement. It was declared a kingdom in 1815. The most exploitable wealth early settlers found was a wood that produced red and purple dyes, pau-brasil, from which the country derived its name. Monarchy was overthrown in 1889 and a republic declared. Armed forces took control in 1964 but civilian government was restored in 1985. Lula da Silva was inaugurated 36th President of Brazil on Jan.1, 2003-Brazil first working-class President.

Until the 1970s Brazil was an almost entirely Catholic country. But a 1999 unofficial survey found that one in six Brazilians now profess loyalty to main protestant evangelical churches.

About 75% of Brazil's population now live in the cities. Brasilia, a showpiece of modern architecture and town planning, was declared the capital on Apr 21, 1960.

Lowest Life Span

Life span was the lowest in Afghanistan in the year 1990 : 41 for men and 42 for women.

France, Germany and Russia was under consideration. NATO launched a series of massive air raids on Serbian positions and Sarajevo and in Serb-held Bosnian territory in August, '95 after the shelling of Sarajevo market by Serb gunmen.

In Sept., '95, Bosnia's warring sides decided to put an end to the three and a half-year-old war by cutting the nation into two parts: one for the rebel Serbs and the other for Muslims and the Croats. In Oct., a ceasefire was to come into effect but Serbs were reportedly engaged in a new 'ethnic cleansing' operation.

February 96 saw the end of the war and the fragile truce imposed by the Dayton accords was reaffirmed at a summit in Rome. In March, Sarajevo, divided by war for almost four years, was reunited as the last of five Serb areas passed to the Muslim-Croat federation. In July, UN war crimes tribunal issued arrest warrants for Bosnian Serbs' political leader Radovan Karadzic, who later agreed to step down. In Sept., elections were held for a 3-person collective presidency and for seats in a federal parliament.

In Mar. 98, US and its NATO allies decided to keep the international peace-keeping force in Bosnia (31,000 troops) through end of 1998. The Dayton peace agreement failed in knitting the three communities into a single state.

Economy: Agricultural products: Wheat, maize, potatoes, plums, timber, cattle, sheep. Industry: Textiles, timber, rugs, cement, electricity, coal, steel. The war has destroyed 95% of industrial capacity.

Mission in India: Embassy of Bosnia & Herzegovina, E-9/11, Vasant Vihar,

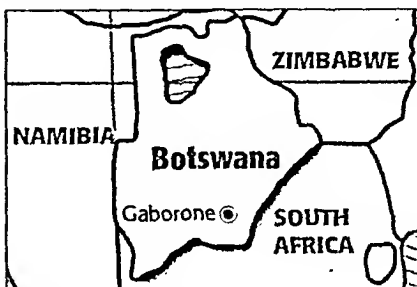
New Delhi-110 057. Tel:4166 2481; Fax: 4166 2482.

E-mail: abhind@gmail.com

23. Botswana

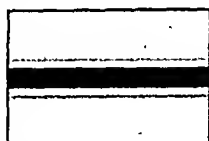
(Republic of Botswana)

Capital: Gaborone; **Other Large Cities:** Francistown, Lobatse; **Area:** 581,730 sq. km; **Population:** 1,842,323 **Languages:** English, Setswana and Sishona; **Religions:** Christian-71.6%; **Literacy:** 81.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 50.16; **p.c.i:** \$ 14,700; **HDI rank:** 124; **Date of Independence:** 30th September, 1966.



Government Type: Parliamentary Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

History: The Republic of Botswana – the land of the Batawana tribes – (formerly known as Bechuanaland)



is located in Southern Africa. Most of the country is near-desert, with the Kalahari occupying the western part of the country. Botswana became independent in Sept. 1966 and assumed its present name.

Rural population is 80% and popula-

Population in Rich Countries

By the early 1980s, the population of Britain had stopped rising. number began to fall.

a fully sovereign and independent state on Jan. 1, 1984.

Economy: Oil and natural gas are Brunei's most valuable resources. Much of Brunei's oil comes from the offshore Ampa field. Over 40% of GDP is derived from oil and gas exports. Rice is the chief food crop. Also grown are bananas, vegetables, cassava and pepper. Other crops are coconuts, sago, cork and rubber. Rubber is an export item.

Mission in India: Brunei Darussalam High Commission, 4 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Tel: 2614 8340, 2614 8343; Fax: 2614 2101.

E-mail: bruneidelhi@dishnetdsl.net

Indian Mission in Brunei: High Commission of India, 'Baitussyifaa', Simpang 40-22, Jalan Sungai Akar, Bandar Seri Begawan BC 3915, Brunei Darussalam. Tel: 00-673-2-339947; Fax: 00-673-2-339783.

E-mail: hicomind@brunet.bn

Web: brunet.bn/gov/emb/india

26 Bulgaria

(Republic of Bulgaria) -
Republika Bulgaria

Capital: Sofia; **Other Large Cities:** Plovdiv, Dobrich; **Area:** 110,912 sq km; **Population:** 7,262,675; **Languages:** Bulgarian, Turkish; **Religions:** Christian-83.8%, Muslim-12.2%; **Literacy:** 98.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.83; **p.c.i:** \$ 11,800; **HDI rank:** 53; **Date of Independence:** 3rd March, 1878.

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Georgi Parvanov; **PM:** Sergei Stanishev.

History: Situated on the Black Sea in



eastern Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria was founded in 681. Monarchy was abolished and a people's republic was proclaimed in

1946. The country's

first free election after four decades of communist rule was

held in 1990, and a

11-member Corporate

Presidency was elected to power. In

Oct. 1991, a non-communist government

was elected. In Apr. '97 Bulgaria's reform

ist Union of Democratic Forces scored

resounding victory in parliamentary elec

tions. The country became a member of

NATO in 2003.

Economy: Principal products: Grains;

tobacco, fruits, vegetables. Minerals:

Coal, iron ore, copper, lead and zinc.

Industry: Crude steel, pig iron, cement,

chemicals, textiles, processed food.

Mission in India: Embassy of the

Republic of Bulgaria, EP 16/17, Chandra

gupta Marg, Chana-kyapuri, New Delhi

- 110021. Tel: 26115549, 26115551

24108048; Fax: 26876190.

E-mail: bulemb@mantraonline.com

Website: www.bulgariaembindia.com

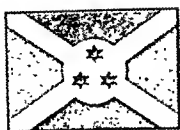
Indian Mission in Bulgaria: Embass

of India, 31, Patriarch Evtimii Blvd., Sofi

Anniversary of the Tunguska Event

It happened a century ago. On June 30, 1908, a massive explosion flattened millions of trees near the Stony Tunguska River in the Siberian wilderness. What caused the Tunguska event is still a mystery.

indigenous beliefs-
23%, Muslim-10%,
Literacy: 59.3%;
Life Expectancy:
51.71; **p.c.i:** \$ 800;



HDI rank: 167; **Date of Independence:** 1st July, 1962.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Pierre Nkurunziza.

History: The Republic of Burundi is a small state in east central Africa. Burundi attained independence on July 1, 1962. Prior to independence, it formed part of the Belgian-administered UN Trust Territory of Rwanda-Urundi.

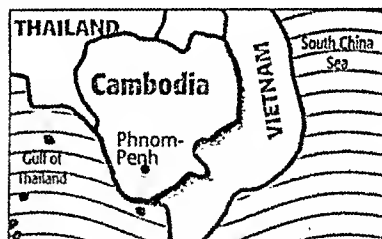
The population consists of Hutu or Bahutu tribesmen (85%), Tutsi or Watutsi people and Twa or Batwa pygmies. One of Africa's poorest and most densely populated states, and scene of one of the continent's worst tribal wars. An unsuccessful Hutu rebellion in 1972-73 left 10,000 Tutsi and 150,000 Hutu dead. In the 1980s, a Tutsi-dominated regime pledged itself to ethnic reconciliation. In the first democratic presidential election in June, 1993, a Hutu was elected. President Cyprien Ntaryamira, along with Rwandan counterpart, was assassinated in April, 1994. Amnesty International puts the number killed in ethnic violence at over 100,000. Another 700,000 fled to neighbouring countries. In July, 1996, in a coup by the Tutsi-dominated army, Maj. Pierre Buyoya, the minority Tutsi strongman, seized power from President Sylvestre. Ethnic strife continued. In Apr. 2003, a Hutu president D. Ndayizeye assumed power fighting continues.

Economy: Burundi is a landlocked, resource-poor country with an underdeveloped manufacturing sector. The economy is predominantly agricultural with 90% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. Economic growth depends on coffee and tea exports, which account for 90% of foreign exchange earnings.

29. Cambodia

(Kingdom of Cambodia) Preah Reach Ana Pak Kampuchea

Capital: Phnom-Penh; **Other Large Cities:** Battambang, Kampong Chan; **Area:** 181,035 sq km; **Population:** 14,241,640; **Languages:** Khmer, French; **Religions:** Theravada Buddhist-95%, others-5%; **Literacy:** 73.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 61.69; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,800; **HDI rank:** 131; **Date of Independence:** 9th November, 1953.



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Norodom Sihamoni; **PM:** Hun Sen.

History: Situated on the Indo-China Peninsula in south-east Asia, the People's Republic of Kampuchea changed its name to the original one Cambodia in May, 1989. For some time-between

Octogenarians Marry

When the first legal gay marriages were performed in California in June 08 after a court ruling, among the couples were two San Francisco women in their 80s. They had lived together for over half a century.

1000, Bulgaria. Tel: 00-359-2-9867672;
Fax: 00-359-2-9801289, 9814124.

E-mail: india@ inet.bg/indembg@
inet.bg

27. Burkina Faso

Capital: Ouagadougou; **Other Large Cities:** Koudougou, Banfora; **Area:** 274,200 sq km; **Population:** 15,264,735; **Languages:** French and Sudanic tribal languages; **Religions:** Muslim-50%, Indigenous beliefs-40%, Christian-10%; **Literacy:** 21.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 52.55; **p.c.i:** \$1,200; **HDI rank:** 176; **Date of Independence:** 5th August, 1960.



Government Type: Parliamentary Republic; **Head of State:** Blaise Compaore.

History: The Republic of Burkina Faso in West Africa is a landlocked state surrounded by Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire.

Formerly a province of French West Africa called Upper Volta, the country changed its name to Burkina Faso in 1984.

Economy: It is almost exclusively an agricultural country with 80 per cent of the population dependent on agriculture. Livestock raising is highly developed. Principal crops are sorghum, millet, yams, cotton, rice, peanuts and karite. Industry is limited to local handicrafts and processed agricultural products. The country is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Some 2 million of its citizens live in nearby countries, most of them in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana. Life expectancy: male 45, female 47.

Mission in India: Embassy of Burkina Faso, F-3/1, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 2614 0641/42; Fax: 2614 0630.

E-mail: emburnd@bol.net.in

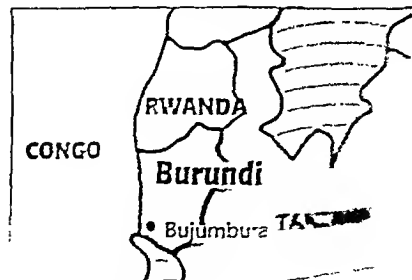
Consulate: Mumbai: Tel: 23643093, Fax: 23645796.

E-mail: bhojwani@pn2.vsnl.net.in

28. Burundi

(Republic of Burundi)-
Republikay' Ubu-rundi

Capital: Bujumbura; **Other Large Cities:** Kitega; **Area:** 27,834 sq.km; **Population:** 8,691,005; **Languages:** French and Kirundi; **Religions:** Christian-67%,



The Rise and Fall

In 1900, Britain was the largest empire with possessions on every continent and one fifth the earth's surface and a quarter of the world's population. By 1914, its possessions had dwindled to 15 dependent territories.



part of the German colony in West Africa. In 1961, British Cameroon was federated with Cameroon,

forming the Federal Republic of Cameroon. In 1984, the country was renamed the Republic of Cameroon.

Cameroon has a central government and two provincial governments—East Cameroon and West Cameroon.

Economy: Cameroon is mainly an agricultural country raising cocoa, palm oil, coffee, rubber, groundnuts, bananas and cotton. East Cameroon is industrially developed. Major Industries are aluminium, chemicals, palm, consumer goods, crude oil, and cement.

31. Canada

Capital: Ottawa; **Other Large Cities:** Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton; **Area:** 9,976,139 sq.km; **Population:** 33,212,696; **Languages:** English, French; **Religions:** Christian-

70.3%-77.1%; **Literacy:** 99% ; **Life Expectancy:** 81.16; **p.c.i:** \$ 38,200; **HDI rank:** 4; **Date of Independence:** 1st July, 1867.

Government Type: Confederation with Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II; **Governor-General:** Michaëlle Jean; **PM:** Stephen Harper.

History: Canada, formerly British Columbia, was settled by Vikings in about 1000 BC. In 1497 AD, Canada was visited by Cabot.

Quebec, one of the provinces in Canada was founded in 1608 by Champlain in a series of voyages he undertook to Canada. In 1774, the province of Quebec was created.

Migration of loyalists from USA after War of Independence led to division of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada. In 1841, the Upper and Lower Canada reunited into Canada. And in 1867, the



Marathon of Hope

Canadian-born Terry Fox, who was diagnosed with bone cancer at 18, decided to run across the nation to generate funds for cancer research. He called the journey 'Marathon of Hope'. It is the world's largest single-day cancer fund-raiser.

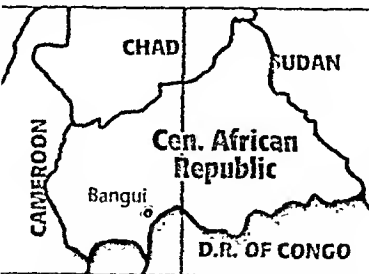
st of Dakar, Senegal. Volcanic in origin, the islands are divided into two groups: Sotavento (windward) and Sotavento (leeward). Most Cape Verdeans are descendants of the first Portuguese colonists who came in 1462 and the African slaves brought in soon after. The islands won independence on July 5, 1975.

Economy: Repeated droughts and mines have made Cape Verde poorer. Chief crops are banana, coffee, coconuts, sugarcane, maize, beans. Fishing is important. Minerals: salt.

33. Central African Republic

Republique Centrafricaine

Capital: Bangui; **Other Large Cities:** Lambari, Bouar; **Area:** 622,984 sq. km; **Population:** 4,434,873; **Languages:** French and Sangho; **Religions:** Indigenous beliefs-35%, Protestant-25%, Roman Catholic-25%, Muslim-15%; **Literacy:** 51%; **Life Expectancy:** 43.97; **p.c.i.:** \$ 700; **HDI rank:** 171; **Date of Independence:** 13th August, 1960.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Francois Bozize; **PM:** Elie Dote.

History: The Central African Republic lies in the heart of equatorial Africa.



In 1966 Col. Jean Bedel Bokasa, Chief of Staff of the Army, ousted President David Dacko and seized

control of the government.

Bokasa was made President for life in 1972. In 1976, he set himself up an emperor, after the Napoleonic pattern. In 1979 a popular uprising drove him out. There was another coup in 1981. A civilian government was installed in 1993.

A government of national unity was formed in June, 1996, after an army mutiny of a month earlier was suppressed with the help of French troops. There was another mutiny in Jan. '97, which ended after French intervention.

Economy: Principal agricultural products are cotton, coffee; groundnuts and tobacco. Cotton leads in exports. Diamonds account for half of the country's export earnings. Uranium mining is becoming increasingly important. Industry: timber, textiles, light manufacturing.

34. Chad

(Republic of Chad)

Republique du Tchad

Capital: N'Djamena; **Other Large Cities:** Sarh, Moundou; **Area:** 1,284,000 sq. km; **Population:** 10,111,337; **Languages:** French, Arabic and over 100 tribal languages; **Religions:** Muslim-53.1%, Christian-34.3%; **Literacy:** 47.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 47.43; **p.c.i.:** \$ 1,600; **HDI rank:** 170; **Date of Independence:** 11th August, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Idriss Deby; **PM:** Nouradine Delwa

Caffeine in Tea & Coffee

A cup of coffee has more caffeine than a cup of tea because a pound (0.45 kg) of tea leaves gives about 250-300 cups whereas one pound of coffee makes only 40 cups.

dominion of Canada was created by the confederation of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Economy: Canada ranks seventh in the world in gross domestic product; it also ranks seventh in total volume of trade. The mineral industry, forest products, and agriculture have been major factors in Canada's economic development. Canada's lakes have more than 50% of the world's surface fresh water, and 75% of Canada's power needs are met by hydro-electric energy.

Agriculture's contribution to the Canadian economy averages less than 4% of both GDP and employment. Agricultural exports, led by wheat, barley, pork and horticultural products, are less than 10% of all trade. Forests cover about half of Canada's total land area. Forest product exports, including pulp and paper, represent 15% of Canada's total export trade; nearly two-thirds is exported to the United States. Canada is the world's leading producer of newsprint, accounting for 40% of global output.

Canada ranks first in the world in mineral exports and third in mineral production after the U.S and the states of the former Soviet Union. It is the world's largest producer of zinc, potash, uranium and nickel; the second-largest producer of asbestos, silver, titanium, gypsum and sulfur; and a leading producer of molybdenum, aluminium, cobalt, gold, lead, copper, iron and platinum. Canada is a major producer of hydroelectricity, oil and gas; unlike most of its industrial partners, it is a net exporter of energy (primarily gas and electricity).

Mission in India: Canadian High

Commission, 7/8 Shantipath, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 4178-2000; Telefax: 4178-2020

E-mail: delhi@international.gc.ca

Web: www.india.gc.ca

Indian Mission in Canada: High Commission of India, 10, Springfield Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1M 1C9, Canada. Tel: 00-613-7443751/53; Fax: 00-613-7440913.

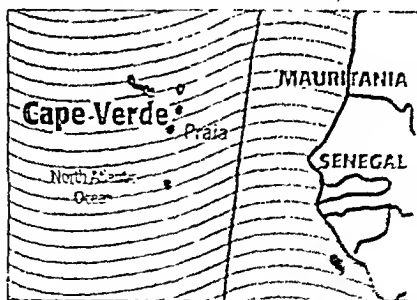
E-mail: hicomind@hciottawa.ca

Website: www.hciottawa.ca

32. Cape Verde

Republic of Cape Verde/República de Cabo Verde

Capital: Praia; **Area:** 4033 sq.km; **Population:** 426,998; **Languages:** Portuguese, Crioulo; **Religions:** Christian-95%; **Literacy:** 76.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 71.33; **p.c.i:** \$ 7,000; **HDI rank:** 102; **Date of Independence:** 5th July, 1975.



Government Type: Republic **President:** Pedro Pires; **PM:** José Maria Neves

History: Cape Verde is an archipelago of 15 islands in the Atlantic, 600 km



'Gladiolus' Won Him the Prize

Frank Neuhaus, now, 94, spelled the word 'gladiolus' correctly in the National Spelling Bee in 1925 to become the first winner of the age.

e. Oil production provides about half the oil required by the country. Exports: marine products and fruits. Thirty percent of Chile's trade is with Asian countries, 8% with EU, and the rest falls within the Americas. Industries: Fish processing, textiles, wood products.

Tierra del Fuego is the largest island in the archipelago of the same name at the southern tip of S. America. Part of the island is in Chile, part in Argentina.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Chile, 146, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003; Tel: 24617123, 24617165, 24617270; Telefax: 91-11-24617102.

E-mail: embchile3@vsnl.com

Indian Mission in Chile: Embassy of India, 871, Triana, Post Box No. 10433, Santigao, Chile. Tel: 00-56-2-2352005, 2352633; Fax: 00-56-2-2359607.

E-mail: embindia@entelchile.net

36. China

(People's Republic of China)

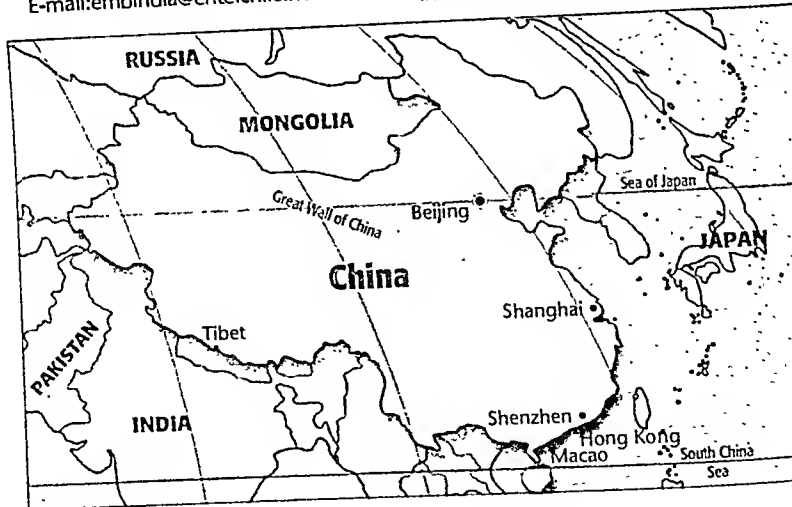
Zhonghua Renmin Gonghe Guo

Capital: Beijing (Peking); **Other Large Cities:** Shanghai, Canton, Shenzhen; **Area:** 9,561,000 sq.km; **Population:** 1,330,044,605 **Languages:** Chinese (Mandarin) and other local languages; **Religions:** Officially Atheist, Buddhism, Taoism, Muslim, Christian; **Literacy:** 90.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.18; **p.c.i.:** \$ 5,300; **HDI rank:** 81; **Date of Independence:** 221 BC (unification under the Qin or Ch'in Dynasty); 1st January, 1912 (Qing Dynasty replaced by a Republic); 1st October 1949 (People's Republic established)

Government Type: Communist state

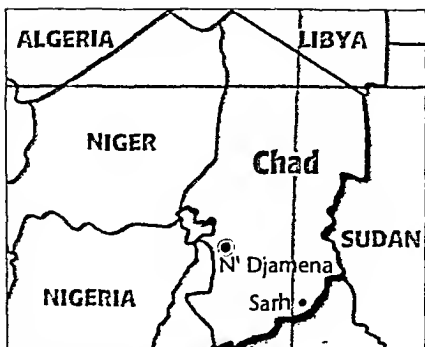
President: Hu Jintao; **PM:** Wen Jiabao.

History: The most populous country in the world and the third largest in area



China's Technological Strength

In a study of nations' technological competitiveness by the Georgia Institute of Technology, China, which scored 22.5 in 1996, has now scored 82.8. This indicates the relative strength of the nation's high-tech export industries.



rank: 40; Date of Independence: 18th September, 1810.

Government Type: Republic; Head



Kassiere Koumakoye.

History: The Republic of Chad, a land-locked country in North Central Africa, was a province of French Equatorial Africa. The country gets its name from Lake Chad, which lies on the western



border with Niger and Nigeria. Northern Muslim rebels have fought Southern Christian government and French troops since 1966. Idriss Deby took control in 1990.

Economy: The country's economy is entirely rural and based on agriculture and animal husbandry. Cotton and meat are the main exports. Cattle, sheep and camels are raised.

of State & Govt (President): Michelle Bachelet.

History: The Republic of Chile lies on the western seaboard of South America, occupying the strip of land between Peru and Bolivia in the north to Cape Horn in the south.



It is the first South American country to elect a Marxist Govt. (under Salvador Allende in 1970) which fell in a military coup in 1973. Human rights violations marked the rule of Augusto Pinochet, removed from office in 1989. Pinochet was arrested in London in Oct. '98, but returned to Chile in March, 2000. Put under house arrest, he was declared to be unfit to stand trial in July 2001.

Economy: Though wheat, other cereals, potatoes, beans etc. are cultivated, Chile has to import about one-third of its food. It is one of world's largest producers and a leading exporter of copper. There are significant deposits of nitrate, silver, lithium, molybdenum and iron.

35. Chile

(Republic of Chile) Republica de Chile

Capital: Santiago; **Other Large Cities:** Valparaiso, Antofagasta; **Area:** 756,626 sq. km; **Population:** 16,454,143; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Christian-87.2%; **Literacy:** 95.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 77.15; **p.c.i:** \$ 14,400; **HDI**

Crime and Punishment in a Museum

Displayed at the Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington is a chair, a gas chamber and tools of the trade of a policeman. For an exhibit can also see old newspapers recalling some of the more infamous crimes.

n rights groups accuse the au-
es of the systematic destruction of
an Buddhist culture and the persecu-
of monks loyal to the Dalai Lama, the
ed spiritual leader who is campaigning
autonomy within China.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Peo-
e's Republic of China, 50-D, Shantipa-
n, Chana-kyapuri, New Delhi-110021.
Tel: 2611 2345; Fax: 2688 5486.
E-mail: chinaemb_in@mfa.gov.cn

Indian Mission in China: Embassy of
India, 1, Ritan Dong Lu, Beijing 100600,
China. Tel: 00-86-10-65321908; Fax: 00-
86-10-65324684.
E-mail: webmaster@indianembassy.
org.cn

Hong Kong

Hong Kong became a Special Admin-
istrative Region of China on July 1, '97
when the colony was handed over by
Britain, which ruled it for 156 years.

Capital: Victoria; **Area:** 1071 sq.km;
Population: 7,018,636, **Languages:**

English and Cantonese, **Religions:** Con-
fucianism and Buddhism; **Life Expec-**
tancy: 81.77; **Literacy:** 93.5%; **p.c.i.:** \$
36,500; **Date of Independence:** Special

Administrative region of China.
Government Type: Limited Democ-
racy; **Chief Executive:** Donald Tsang

Lying along the south east coast of
China, at the mouth of the Canton
river, Hong Kong comprises Hong Kong
island, Kowloon Peninsula, the New Ter-
ritories and over 230 small islands. Hong
Kong became a British colony in 1843.
The New Territories were acquired by
Britain in 1898 by lease for 99 years. By
an agreement reached in 1984, China

recovered sovereignty over Hong Kong
in July 1997.

The population is almost entirely
Chinese with a sprinkling of other na-
tionalities. It is one of the world's greatest
transshipment ports.

Indian Mission in Hong Kong:
Consulate General of India, 16-D United
Centre, 95, Queensway, Hong Kong.
Tel: 00-852-25284028, 25272275; Fax:
00-852-28664124.

E-mail: cg@indianconsulate.org.uk/-
consular@indianconsulate.org.hk
Web: www.indianconsulate.org.hk

Macao

Capital: Macao; **Area:** 15.5 sq.km
Population: 460,823; **Languages:**
Portuguese and Cantonese; **Religion:**
Confucianism; **Life Expectancy:** 82
Literacy: 91.3%; **p.c.i.:** \$ 22,000.
Chief Executive: (Hau-wah) Edm

Ho.

Macao or Macau is a former Portu-
guese territory in South China, at the mo-
th of the Canton river. The territory con-
sists of the Macao peninsula and the ad-
jacent islands of Taipa and Coloane. Por-
tugal granted it broad autonomy in 1976
under the agreement between Portugal
and China, Macao reverted to China
on December 20, 1999. China has permitted
Macao to continue as an independent
entity mainly because of the big enter-
tainment commands. Macao is a free
port, with gold and an infamous cent-
re for gambling and gambling. China
has agreed to Portugal that it will im-
plement 'one country two systems'
in Macao.

The population is a

Four and Dead

The Chinese usually avoid the number 'four' because its pronunciation
is similar to the word for 'dead'. Some skyscrapers don't include floors that end with
four.

China is made up of 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions and four municipalities. It occupies most of the habitable mainland of East Asia. Two-thirds of the territory is mountainous or desert; only one-tenth is cultivated. The eastern half of China is one of the world's best-watered lands. Three great river systems (the Chang or Yangtze, Huang or Yellow and Xi) provide water for the farmlands.



Following internal conflicts after World War II involving the Kuomintang, Communists and other factions, China came under the domination of Communist armies. The People's Republic of China was proclaimed in Peking on October 1, 1949, under Mao Tse-Tung. The Kuomintang gov't. moved to Taiwan, Dec. 8, 1949. Mao died in 1976 and Deng Xiaoping succeeded him as the 'paramount leader' of China. Deng died in 1997 and Jiang Zemin came to power.

On Oct. 26, 1971 China was admitted a member of the UN, displacing Nationalist China (Taiwan).

Economy: China is essentially an agricultural country. The main crops are rice, tea, tobacco, sugarcane, jute, soya, groundnut and hemp. The main forest products are teak and tung oil. Among the principal industries are cotton and woollen mills, iron, leather and electrical equipments. The chief minerals are coal, manganese, iron ore, gold, copper, lead, zinc, silver, tungsten, mercury, antimony and tin. Petroleum industry is steadily growing.

In late 1978, the Chinese leadership

began moving the economy from a Soviet-style centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented system. The result has been a quadrupling of GDP since 1978. In 2002, with its 1.28 billion people but a GDP of just \$ 4600 per capita, China stood as the second largest economy in the world after the US (measured on a purchasing power parity basis).

China is a nuclear power well advanced in space technology. It launched its first earth satellite in April, 1970.

Student uprising in 1989 for political reform and liberalisation was put down by the government. Tiananmen Square, outside the Great Hall of the People, was the main scene of the demonstrations. It is estimated that 5000 people died and 10,000 were injured. China released its top dissident leader Wang Dan in Apr. 98.

China intends to downsize its three million-strong military to 2.5m. In July '99, China banned the quasi-religious sect Falun Gong. In early '99, the constitution was amended so as to bolster private enterprise. The gov't. follows a one-child per family policy. It targets zero population growth by 2010.

Tibet: One of the five autonomous regions, Tibet is a thinly populated region of high plateaus and massive mountains. Capital is Lhasa and population about 2.44m. of whom 500,000 are Chinese. China declared a Communist gov't in 1953, ending the theocratic monarchy. Tibet was an independent country before 1950 and Buddhist religion was the state religion. The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader, fled to India in 1959. The Chinese government has since then been trying to bring Tibet back under its control.

China, World's Second-Largest Economy

China, the world's second-largest economy, grew by 7.7% in 2002, overtaking Japan and becoming the world's top goods exporter in 2002. In 2002, China's total coal production was 270.5 million tonnes, up from 270.5 million tonnes to 300 million tonnes.

Vihar, New Delhi-110 057; Tel:4166 2103,4166 2105;Fax: 4166 2104

E-mail: edelhi@minrelext.gov.in

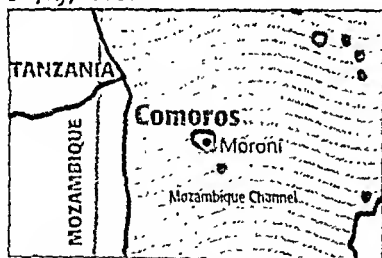
Indian Mission in Colombia: Embassy of India, Carrera 7, No.71-21, Oficina 1001, Edificio Bancafe, Bogota DC, Colombia. Tel: 00-57-1-3174865, Fax:00-37-1-3174976,

E-mail:indembog@cable.net.co

38. The Comoros

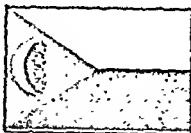
(Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros) Jumhuriyat al-Qumer al-Itthadiyah al-Islamiyah

Capital: Moroni; **Other Large Cities:** Fomboni, Mutsamudu; **Area:** 1862 sq.km; **Population:** 731,775; **Languages:** Arabic and Comoran; **Religions:** Islam-98%; **Literacy:** 56.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 63.10; **p.c.i:** \$ 600; **HDI rank:** 134; **Date of Independence:** 6th July, 1975.



Government Type: Independent Republic; **Head of State (President):** Ahmed Abdallah Sambi.

History: The Comoro Islands lie at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel, between Africa and Mada-



gascar. The archipelago consists of 3 islands—Grande-Comore, Anjouan and Moheli—and a number of islets and coral reefs. With neighbouring Mayotte, they were attached to Madagascar from 1914 to 1947, when the four islands became a French Overseas Territory. In a 1974 referendum, the three islands voted for independence while Mayotte voted to remain French.

In 1997, eyeing the subsidies and aid showered on Mayotte, the islands of Anjouan and Moheli seceded from the federation, demanding to be returned to French control. France declined the offer.

In April 1999 the army took over 'to preserve national unity' and subsequently reached an agreement with the separatists in the 'Fomboni Accord' which established a federal structure.

Economy: Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. (Vanilla, copra, perfume plants, fruits). Industry: Perfumes.

Mission in India: Hon. Consul General: K.L. Ganju, 27-28 G. Floor, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060 841319/28741328 8741326 e-mail: klganju@hotmail.com

39. Congo, D.R. of (Formerly Zaire)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Capital: Kinshasa; **Other Large Cities:** Lubumbashi, Kananga; **Area:** 2,344,885 sq km; **Population:** 66,514,506; **Languages:** French, Kiswahili, Lingala and other African languages; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-50%, Protestant-20%, Kimbanguist-10%, Muslim-10%; **Literacy:** 65.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 53.98;

Gender Balance

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has replaced gender-specific language by neutral words: 'His' becomes 'His or her', 'chairman' is 'chair' and 'workmen', 'workers'.

Chinese. Industry, once restricted to matches and fireworks, now includes plastics, textiles, cameras, binoculars and such other consumer items. Cultivation is sparse. Only rice and vegetables are grown. Macao has an important fishing industry.

37. Colombia

(Republic of Colombia) Republica de Colombia

Capital: Bogota; **Other Large Cities:** Medellin, Cartagena; **Area:** 1,139,000 sq. km; **Population:** 45,013,674; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Christian-93.5%; **Literacy:** 92.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.54; **p.c.i.:** \$ 7,200; **HDI rank:** 75; **Date of Independence:** 20th July, 1810.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Alvaro Uribe Velez.

Colombia, the only nation named after Christopher COLUMBUS, situated in the north west of South America, extends up to the Isthmus of Panama. It is the only South American country that borders on both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

History: Colombia was discovered by Alonso de Ojeda in 1499. It was once a

part of the South American Spanish Empire. In 1819, Simon Bolivar, the first President, broke the hold of Spain.

Bolivar united New Granada, as it was called, with Venezuela and Ecuador in the Greater Colombia Confederation in 1819. Venezuela and Ecuador broke away in 1929-30, and Panama withdrew in 1903.

The country is caught in the grip of a vicious guerrilla war that has claimed 40,000 lives in the past decade. The two main Left-wing guerilla groups are the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the smaller National Liberation Army.

Economy: Colombia is the largest producer and exporter of mild coffee. Other products are bananas, fresh flowers, cotton fibre, sugar, rice, tobacco, maize and wheat. The country is the world's leading producer of emeralds (50% world output) and is a substantial producer of platinum and gold; it holds the largest coal reserves in Latin America, rich nickel deposits and natural gas fields.

Industries include textiles, cement, motor vehicles, beverages, food products, chemicals and non-metallic minerals.

Colombia has 36 universities. The oldest-the Javeriana Pontifical Catholic University - was founded in 1622, and the National University in 1868. Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the internationally renowned writer, is Colombia's most famous son.

Mission In India: Embassy of Colombia, 3 Palam Marg, First Floor, Vasant

Death of Newborns

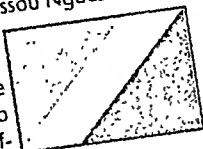
Across the world, 30 lakh newborns die during the first seven days of their lives. The majority of these deaths occur in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.



139; Date of Independence: 15th August 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Gen. Denis Sassou Nguesso.

History: Formerly part of the French Equatorial Africa, the Republic of Congo in West Central Africa became autonomous within the French Community in Aug. 1958 and fully independent in Aug. 1960. In 1963, the country adopted a Marxist-Leninist stance. In 1969, a new constitution was promulgated. Marxism was renounced in 1990. A democratically elected government came into office in 1992.



In June 97, fighting broke out between armed forces backing President Lissouba and his once marxist predecessor Denis Sassou Nguesso. Troops loyal to the latter took control of Brazaville in October.

Economy: Agriculture: Palm oil and kernels, cassava, cocoa, coffee, tobacco. Industry: Processed foods, textiles, cement, metal industries. Main exports: timber, diamonds, palm oil, crude petroleum, sugar and groundnuts.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Congo stationed at Beijing.

41. COSTA RICA

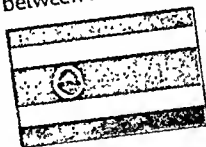
(Republic of Costa Rica)
República de Costa Rica

Capital: San Jose; **Other Large Cities:** Alajuela, Cartago; **Area:** 51,100 sq.km; **Population:** 4,195,914; **Languages:** Christian-87.3%-92%; **Literacy:** 96%; **Life Expectancy:** 77.40; **p.c.i:** \$ 13,500; **HDI rank:** 48; **Date of Independence:** 15th September 1821.



Government Type: Democratic Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Oscar Arias Sanchez.

The Republic of Costa Rica (the I Coast) is a Central American state. It lies between Nicaragua and Panama.

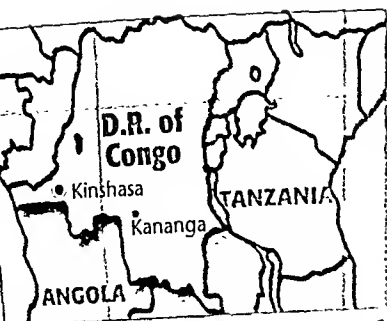


History: nearly three centuries Costa Rica formed part of Spanish American dominion.

Economy: The country is mainly agricultural. Coffee is the most important product, accounting for about 30% of exports. Other crops include sugar, cocoa, cotton. Bananas, cattle and, recently, sugar are also important.

A 4-hour Flight

A space plane being developed by Europe's EADS Astrium will be able to fly from London to Sydney in four hours. The 17,000 km. journey currently takes more than 21 hours.



p.c.i: \$ 300; HDI rank: 168; Date of Independence: 30th June, 1960.

Government Type: Dictatorship;
President: Gen. Joseph Kabila. **PM:** Antoine Gizenga.

History: The history of DR Congo has been one of civil war and corruption. After independence in 1960, the country immediately faced an army mutiny and an attempt at secession by its mineral-rich province of Katanga. A year later, its prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, was seized and killed by troops loyal to army chief Joseph Mobutu. In 1965 Mobutu seized power, later renaming the country Zaïre and himself Mobutu Sese Seko. He turned Zaïre into a springboard for operations against Soviet-backed Angola and thereby ensured US backing. But he also made Zaïre synonymous with corruption.



After the Cold War, Zaïre ceased to be of interest to the US. Thus, when in 1997 neighbouring Rwanda invaded it to flush out extremist Hutu militias, it gave a boost to anti-Mobutu rebels, who quickly captured the capital, Kinshasa, installed Laurent Kabila as president and renamed the country DR Congo.

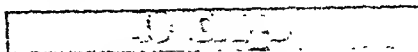
Nonetheless, DR Congo's troubles continued. A rift between Kabila and his former allies sparked a new rebellion, backed by Rwanda and Uganda. Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe took Kabila's side, turning the country into a vast battleground.

Laurent Kabila was assassinated in January 2001. His son Joseph Kabila became the new leader. Mr. Kabila promised to rule by consensus to try to heal the still raw scars of Congo's military conflicts.

Economy: The major assets of Congo are her copper mines and the diamond deposits. The country is rich in other minerals like cobalt (60% of world reserves), cadmium, manganese, zinc and uranium. The forests abound in high class wood like mahogany, ebony and teak. Principal agricultural products are coffee, palm oil, rubber, sugarcane, maize, rice, cassava and plantains. Main manufactures are tobacco, textiles, wood products, metal items, building materials, foodstuffs and beverages.

Mission in India: Embassy, of the Democratic Republic of Congo, S-2/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057. Tel: 4166 0976.

E-mail: CongoEmbassy@yahoo.co.in



(Republic of the Congo,
République du Congo)

Capital: Brazzaville; Other Large Cities: Pointe-Noire, Louboville, etc.; Area: 342,000 sq km; Population: 3,500,000; Languages: French, Lingala, Congo, etc.; Religions: Christian-50%, animist-40%, Muslim-2%; Literacy: 23.2%; Life Expectancy: 53.74; p.c.i: \$3,700; HDI rank:

Less Than \$1 a Day

Half of the world's people live on less than two dollars a day and a billion on less than a dollar a day.

Mission in India: Embassy of Cote D'Ivoire, B-9/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 4604 3000.

E-mail: embassy@amb2ci-inde.org

Indian Mission in Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast): Embassy of India, Villa No. 105, rue L98, 7eme Tranche, Cocody/II Plateaux-Angre, 06 B.P. 318, Abidjan 06, Cote d'Ivoire. Tel: 00-225-22423769, 22427079; Fax: 00-225-22426649.

E-mail: indemabj@globeaccess.net

43. Croatia

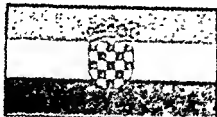
(Republic of Croatia) Republika Hrvatska

Capital: Zagreb; **Other Large Cities:** Zagreb, Split; **Area:** 56,538 sq. km; **Population:** 4,491,543; **Languages:** Serbo-Croatian; **Religions:** Christian-62%-92.6%; **Literacy:** 98.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.13; **p.c.i:** \$ 15,500; **HDI rank:** 47; **Date of Independence:** 25th June, 1991.



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Stipe Mesic; **PM:** Dr. Ivo Sanader.

History: Former Yugoslavia's second largest republic, Croatia



in S.E. Europe, has an extensive Adriatic coastline.

Croats migrated to their present territory in the 6th century. Croatia was united with Hungary in 1091. In 1918, Croatia became a part of the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which was renamed Yugoslavia in 1929. Croatia then became one of the six 'Socialist Republics' constituting the Yugoslav federation. On June 25, 1991, Croatia declared independence. Serbs rebelled, sparking a 7 month-long civil war. The Krajina and other predominantly Serb areas proclaimed the desire for union with Serbia. UN peace-keeping mission arrived at the beginning of 1992. European Community (EC) recognised Croatia on January 15, 1992. Fighting between ethnic Serbs and Croats continued. A ceasefire with Serb rebels forming a self-declared republic of Krajina was agreed to in March, 1994. In Aug, '96, Croatia and Serbia agreed to resume normal diplomatic ties after years of hostility. Croatia joined NATO's extended family in May, 2000.

Ethnic breakdown: Croats-75%; Serbs-12%; others-13%.

Economy: Agricultural products: Wheat, maize, potatoes, olives, plums, livestock, timber. Industry: Textiles, chemicals, coal, lignite, cement, sugar, steel, plastics, textiles.

Croatia's spectacular Adriatic coastline has long been a major package-tourist attraction notably the ancient city of Dubrovnik, which took a severe battering from the Yugoslav army in 1991.

Nearly 70% of trade exchange between ex-Yugoslavia and India was with Croatia. Upto one-third of the Indian fleet

How to Get Into a Prison?

Between 2003 and 2008, 42 people were caught trying to get into prisons in Britain. The reason? The prisons are so comfortable, effectively expensive 'bed and breakfasts'.

In recent years there has been a shift towards high-tech exports like computer chips and services. Now Costa Rica is the largest exporter of technology goods per capita in Latin America. After abolishing its army nearly half a century ago, the country has pumped large sums of money into education, creating a highly skilled workforce that reflects a population with a 95% literacy rate.

Industry: Pharmaceuticals, furniture, aluminium, textiles, tourism. People enjoy a relatively high standard of living. 93% have electricity. Silicon processors have brought prosperity to Costa Rica in recent years.

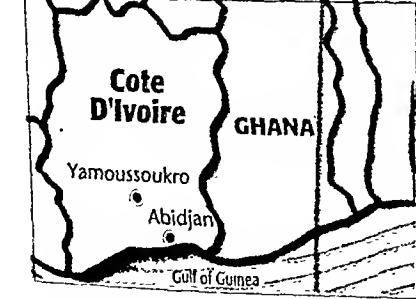
Mission in india: Hon. Consulate General of costa Rica, D-388 Defence Colony, New Delhi-110 024. Tel:24625670; Fax: 23327231;

E-mail: bradynd@del2.vsnl.net.in

42.Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

(Republique de la Cote d'Ivoire)

Capital: Yamoussoukro (official), Abidjan(de facto); **Other Large Cities:** Bouake; **Area:** 322,462 sq.km.; **Population:** 18,373,060; **Languages:** French and Tribal; **Religions:** Christian-20-30%, Muslim-35-40%, Indig-



enous-25-40% (2001). The majority of foreigners (migratory workers) are Muslim-70% and Christian (20%); **Literacy:** 50.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 49.18; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,800; **HDI rank:** 166; **Date of Independence:** 7th August, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Laurent Gbagbo; **PM:** Guillaume Soro.

Cote D'Ivoire in Western Africa is bordered by Mali and Burkina Faso in the north, Ghana in the east, the Gulf of Guinea in the south, and Liberia and Guinea in the west.

History: The Republic of Ivory Coast, once an overseas territory of France, became independent on August 7, 1960.



From 1986, the French version of the name became the only correct title. There are about 60 ethnic groups, the principal being the Baule, the Bete and the Senufo. General Robert Guei seized power in Dec, 1999. There was a coup attempt in 2002. A peace agreement was signed in 2003, but there was trouble again. A power-sharing plan was arrived at in Mar. 03, and ceasefire signed in May.

Economy: Agriculture, forestry and fishing employ 90 per cent of the population. Cote D'Ivoire is world's largest cocoa producer, the third most important coffee producer and the most important African producer of timber. Sugar, cotton, bananas and pineapples are other important crops. Industrialisation has developed rapidly since independence, particularly food processing, textiles and saw mills. Important minerals: Diamonds and manganese.

Putinka

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin doesn't drink but a popular vodka brand is named after him. It is Putinka.

45. Cyprus

Republic of Cyprus) Kypriaki Dimokratia (Greek)/Kibiris Cumhuriyeti (Turkish)



Capital: Nicosia; **Other Large Cities:** Limassol, Larnaca; **Area:** 9,251 sq.km; **Population:** 792,604; **Languages:** Greek, Turkish and English; **Religions:** Christian-79.3%; **Literacy:** 97.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.15; **p.c.i :** \$ 27,100; **HDI rank:** 28; **Date of Independence:** 16th August, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President & PM:** Tassos Papadopoulos.

History: The Republic of Cyprus lies in the North Eastern corner of the East Mediterranean basin, at the meeting point of three continents—Europe, Asia and Africa. In 1974 it was invaded by Turkey and nearly 40% of its territory is still under Turkish occupation. A Turkish Cypriot Federated State was proclaimed in 1975 and in 1983 the state unilaterally proclaimed itself as the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' (TRNC). In 1994, informal talks were held between the Presidents of Cyprus and TRNC but no progress was made. In Aug '96, violence jolted Cypriots on both sides. UN attempts to reunify Cyprus have not been successful.



Economy: The healthy climate and the natural beauty of the island make it an ideal place for tourists.

Cyprus is mainly an agricultural island. Main agricultural exports are: potatoes, grapes, carrots, fresh vegetables, citrus, milk. Main industrial exports are: readymade clothing, footwear, cement, travel goods, plastic products, water pumps, furniture, cosmetics, etc.

Mission in India: High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus, 67, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110 003. Tel: 2469 7503, 2469 7508; Fax: 2462 8828.

E-mail: cyprus@del3.vsnl.net.in

Web: www.cyprushedhelhi.com

Indian Mission in Cyprus: High Commission of India, 3, Indira Gandhi Street, Montparnasse Hill, P.O. Box 25544, Engomi, 2413 Nicosia, Cyprus. Tel: 00-357-2-351741, 351170; Fax: 00-357-2-350402.

E-mail: india@spidemet.com.cy

46. Czech Republic

(Ceska Republika)

Capital: Prague; **Other Large Cities:** Brno, Ostrava; **Area:** 78,864 sq km; **Population:** 10,228,744; **Languages:** Czech; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-26.8%, Protestant-2.1%, other-3.3%, unspecified-8.8%, unaffiliated-59%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 76.62; **p.c.i :** \$ 24,400; **HDI rank:** 32; **Date of**



Economic Control Shifting to Women

40.4 per cent of small businesses in the US are owned by women. It is 33 per cent in Europe, 20 per cent in China and 25 per cent in Japan.

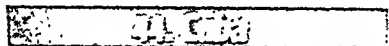
for nearly 40 years was built in Croatian shipyards.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, A-15, West End, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 4166 3101; Fax: 2411 6873

E-mail: croemb.new-delhi@mvpei.hr

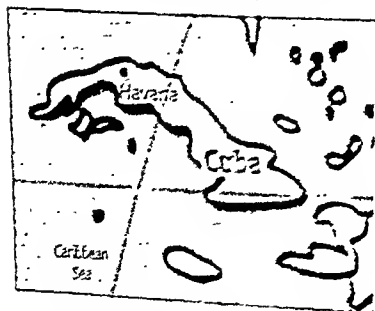
Indian Mission in Croatia: Embassy of India, Boskovicova 7A 10000, Zagreb, Croatia. Tel: 00-385-1-4873239, 4873240, 4873241; Fax: 00-385-1-4817907.

E-mail: embassy.india@zg.tel.hr Web: www.ring.net/india



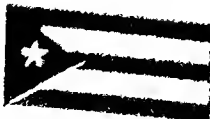
(Republic of Cuba) República de Cuba

Capital: Havana; **Other Large Cities:** Santiago de Cuba, Santa Clara; **Area:** 110,922 sq.km; **Population:** 11,423,952; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Nominally 85% Roman Catholic before Castro assumed power; **Literacy:** 99.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 77.27; **p.c.i:** \$4,500; **Date of Independence:** 20 May, 1962



Government Type: Communist State; **Head of State & Govt. (President):** Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz; **Prime President:** Raúl Castro

History: Cuba, the largest island in the Greater Antilles group is known



as the Pearl of the Caribbean Sea. It is formed by two main islands - the island of Cuba and the Isle of Youth and more than 4000 keys and small isles.

Columbus discovered Cuba in 1492 and Spain ruled it for four centuries.

In 1959 Dr. Fidel Castro overthrew General Batista, the dictator for several years and took over power. Frightened by an unsuccessful invasion at the Bay of Pigs in Apr. 1961. In 1962 USA learned that Castro had brought nuclear missiles to Cuba. After a warning from President J.F. Kennedy, the missiles were removed. A new constitution came into force in 1976, and direct parliamentary elections were permitted in 1992. In Jan. '98, Fidel Castro was re-elected president.

Economy: Cuba is the largest producer of sugar in the world. Tobacco is the second largest crop. Cattle, poultry and fishing have become important in recent years. Cuba is rich in nickel deposits. Copper, chromite and manganese are also found.

Mission In India: Embassy of the Republic of Cuba, W-124 A, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110 048. Tel: 2924 2467, 2924 2468; Fax: 2923 2469.

E-mail: embcuind@del6.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in Cuba: Embassy of India, Calle 21, No. 202, Esquina K, Vedado, La Havana, Cuba. Tel: 00-53-7-333777, 00-53-7-333169, 551700; Fax: 00-53-7-333287.

E-mail: india@ceniai.inf.cu

Food Demand to Rise 4 % p.a.

According to Credit Suisse, a burgeoning population and changing consumption patterns could push up food demand in the Asian region by 3.2 per cent every year in the next 19 years, higher than the world demand.

Independence: 1st January, 1993.
Government Type: Parliamentary
Democracy; **President:** Vaclav Klaus;
PM: Mirek Topolánek.

History: The Czech Republic and Slovakia became independent states when the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (Czechoslovakia) was dissolved.



Czechoslovakia, a republic landlocked in Central Europe, was composed of 64% Czechs and 31% Slovaks. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was established in January 1969 as a federal state of two nations of equal rights. In 1990, the country changed its name to the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and dropped 'socialist' to symbolise its departure from the communist past. Disputes between the two regions over post-communist reforms turned the union bitter. In June, 1992 the 74-year old federation's Czech and Slovak regions agreed to part.

Economy: Agriculture: Sugarbeet, wheat, potatoes, barley, maize, rye. Industry: Pig iron, crude steel, rolled steel products, cement, paper, sulphuric acid, synthetic fibres, sugar, beer, armaments, cars. Minerals: Coal, caolin, uranium.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Czech Republic, 50-M, Niti Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110 021, Tel: 2611 0205, 611 0318, 2611 0382, 2688 6218; Fax: 11-11-2688 6221.

E-mail: newdelhi@embassy.mzv.cz
 Web: mfa.cz/newdelhi

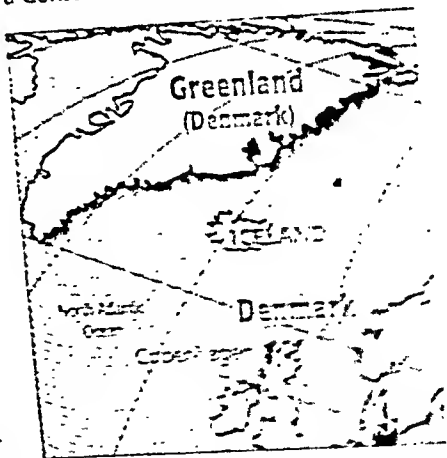
Indian Mission in Czech Republic:
 Embassy of India, Valdstejska 6, Malas-

trana, 118 00 Prague-1, Czech Republic.
 Tel: 00-420-2-57533490-93; Fax: 00-420-2-57533285, 57533378.
 E-mail: indempague@bohem.net.cz/
 eiprague.comwing@nectraa.cz

57. DENMARK

(Kingdom of Denmark) Kongeriget Danmark

Capital: Copenhagen; **Other Large Cities:** Odense, Ålborg, Randers; **Area:** 43,074 sq km; **Population:** 5,454,723. **Languages:** Danish; **Religions:** Christian-89%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.13; **p.c.i.:** \$ 37,400; **HDI rank:** 14; **Date of Independence:** Denmark was first organised as a unified state in the 10th century. In 1849, Denmark became a Constitutional Monarchy.



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** Queen Margrethe II; **PM:** Anders Fogh Rasmussen

History: Denmark, the smallest of the Scandinavian countries, is situated in northern Europe between the North

Come to Greenland

The Norseman Eric the Red who discovered Greenland, most of which lies under a permanent ice cap, gave the island an attractive name to woo potential settlers.

Economy: Exports include bananas, cocoa, copra and fruits. Tourism is an important industry.

The French franc, the pound sterling and East Caribbean dollar are legal tender.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate of Commonwealth of Dominica, 283, Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi-110049; Tel: 2686 2595; Fax: 011-2651 0860.

E-mail: dominica_shukla@vsnl.net

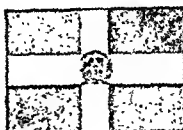
(Republica Dominica)

Capital: Santo Domingo; **Other Large Cities:** La Vega, San Pedro; **Area:** 48,442 sqkm; **Population:** 9,507,133; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Roman Catholic -95% others-5%; **Literacy:** 87%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.39; **p.c.i:** \$9,200; **HDI rank:** 79; **Date of Independence:** 27th February, 1844.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Leonel Fernandez.

History: The Dominican Republic in the West Indies occupies the eastern two-thirds of Hispaniola, the second largest island of the Greater Antilles. Origin-



nally under Spain, the Dominican Republic became independent in 1844. The population is mainly composed of

a mixed race of European (Spanish) and African blood.

Economy: The state is predominantly agricultural. The most important crops are sugarcane, coffee, cocoa, tobacco and rice. Industry: Sugar refining, textiles, cement.

51. East Timor

(Democratic Republic of East Timor)

Capital: Dili; **Area:** 14,874 sq km; **Population:** 1,108,777; **Languages:** Tetum & Portuguese (official), English and Bahasa Indonesian (working languages); **Religions:** Roman Catholic-98%, Muslim-1%, Protestant-1%; **Literacy:** 58.6% (2001); **Life Expectancy:** 66.94; **p.c.i:** \$ 800; **HDI rank:** 150; **Date of Independence:** 20th May, 2002.



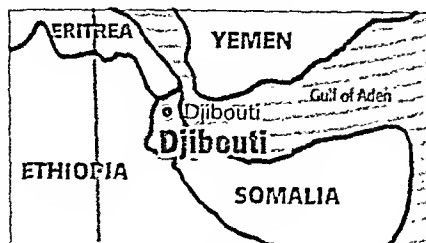
Government Type: Republic; **President:** Jose Ramos Horta; **PM:** Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao

History: At midnight on May 19,

Growth in Asia

The developing countries in Asia are expected to grow at 7.6 p.c. during 2008 and 7.8 p.c. in 2009, says the Asian Development Outlook 2008 published by the Asian Development Bank. The region posted its highest growth rate in two decades in 2007, averaging 8.7 per cent.

67.9%; Life Expectancy: 43.31; p.c.i.: \$ 1,000; HDI rank: 149; Date of Independence: 27th June, 1977.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Ismail Omar Guelleh; **PM:** Mohamed Dileita Dileita

History: Djibouti was first known as French Somaliland and then as the French Territory of Afars and Issas. Lying between Ethiopia and Somalia and looking out on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, the state is of extreme strategic importance.

Economy: The land is economically poor, being mostly volcanic desert with scattered plateaus and highlands. Agriculture is possible only in restricted areas with irrigation facilities. Goats, sheep and camels form the major wealth of the state. Salt is a major product. Huge salt deposits are found in the lakes of Abol and Assal. Trade is almost entirely based in the capital Djibouti. French aid as well as assistance from Arab countries is the mainstay of the economy.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate 3, Aurangzeb Lane, New Delhi

110011; Tel: 23011642/648; Telefax: 23011634.

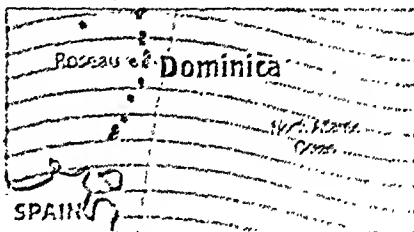
E-mail: djibouti@spectranet.com

Indian Mission: Honorary Consulate of India, P.B.No.171, Djibouti. Tel:+253-350142; Fax:+253-351778

49. Dominica

(Commonwealth of Dominica)

Capital: Roseau; **Area:** 750 sq km; **Population:** 72,514; **Languages:** English and French Patois; **Religion:** Christian-90.9%; **Literacy:** 94%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.33; **p.c.i.:** \$ 3,800; **HDI rank:** 71; **Date of Independence:** 3rd November, 1978



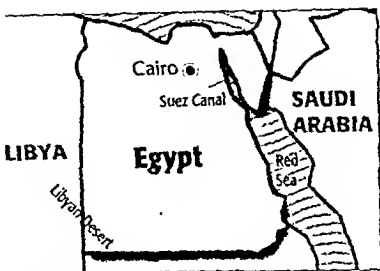
Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Nicholas J.O. Liverpool; **PM:** Roosevelt Skerrit.

History: Commonwealth of Dominica lies in the Lesser Antilles in Eastern Caribbean. Once a British protectorate, it assumed the status of a British Overseas State in 1967.

The island is volcanic in origin and largely mountainous with numerous forested slopes. The population is diverse, with Africans, Carib Indians and Europeans.

Tax for Being Fat

Insurance firms in Britain are to levy a 'fat tax' on the seriously overweight could be 5% per cent higher on some policies. Those paying higher premiums. The increased charge can be up to 45% if previous medical conditions.



Arabic, English; Religions: Muslim (mostly Sunni)-90%, Coptic-9%, Other Christian-1%; Literacy: 71.4%; Life Expectancy: 71.85; p.c.i: \$5,400; HDI rank: 112; Date of Independence: 28th February, 1922.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Hosni Mubarak; **PM:** Ahmed Nazif.

Egypt, traditionally known as the Gift of the Nile, occupies north east Africa.

History: Egypt has one of the oldest civilisations in the world, its recorded history going back to more than 5000 B.C. In 1922 Egypt became an independent monarchy and in 1953 a republic. The early years were dominated by Gamal Abdel Nasser. Nasser was replaced on his death in 1970 by Anwar Ali Sadat. Sadat was assassinated in 1981 and was replaced by Hosni Mubarek.

Egypt merged with Syria in 1958 to form United Arab Republic; Syria broke away from the union in 1961.

The Suez Canal (173 km. long, connecting the Mediterranean with the Red Sea) was opened for navigation in 1869; nationalised 1956, closed 1967, reopened 1975. The Aswan High Dam

(1971) provides irrigation for more than a million acres of land.

Economy: The main agricultural area is Lower Egypt which covers the delta of the Nile. Crops are cotton, onions, wheat, maize, millet, rice, sugarcane and fruits of various kinds. Industry: Textiles, chemicals, petrochemicals, food processing, cement. Exports are cotton, rice, mineral products, textiles, refrigerators, tyres, cement and electrical instruments.

The population boom is causing concern. Islamic militancy is a new threat in Egypt.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 1/50-M, Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26114096/97; Fax: 91-11-26885355.

Indian Mission in Egypt: Embassy of India, 5 Aziz Abaza Street, Zamalek, P.O. Box No.718, Cairo 11211, Egypt. Tel: 00-20-2-7360052, 7356053; Fax: 00-20-2-7364038.

E-mail: embassy@indembcairo.com

50. El Salvador

(Republic of El Salvador)
Republica do El Salvador

Capital: San Salvador; **Other Large Cities:** Santa Ana, San Maguel; **Area:**



The Girls' Festival

On the Festival of Hina Matsuri (Girls' Festival) in Japan, dolls displayed in family living rooms are offered fruits on miniature dishes by young girls.

2002 East Timor became an independent country, after 450 years of Portuguese rule,



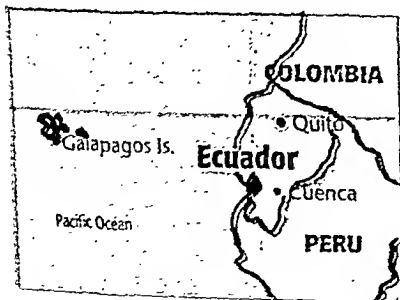
24 of brutal Indonesian occupation and two-and-a-half under the supervision of the UN. East Timor became a member of the United Nations in Sept. 2002.

Economy: East Timor's economy is dominated by agriculture with 75% of the country's population engaging in this activity. The major agricultural products are sweet potatoes and corn along with cash crops – especially coffee. Farmers on the coastal plains also grow rice and plantation crops such as rubber, tobacco, and coconuts. In addition, the forests yield many kinds of timber, including sandal wood.

52. Ecuador

(Republic of Ecuador)
Republica del Ecuador

Capital: Quito; **Other Large Cities:** Guayaquil, Cuenca; **Area:** 283,561 sq km; **Population:** 13,927,650; **Languages:** Spanish, Quechuan and tribal



dialects; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-95%; Others -5%; **Literacy:** 91%; **Life Expectancy:** 76.81; **p.c.i:** \$ 7,100; **HDI rank:** 89; **Date of Independence:** 24th May, 1822

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Rafael Correa Delgado.

History: Ecuador lies on the west coast of South America. A part of the great



Inca Empire, Ecuador came under Spanish rule in 1533.

Some 40% of the population is Amerindian. Guayaquil is the chief seaport and airport. The Galapagos islands (the home of huge tortoises) belong to Ecuador.

Economy: Ecuador is the world's largest exporter of bananas. Sugarcane, African palm, cacao, balsawood (world's largest exporter), rice and coffee are grown.

Industry: Food processing, wood products, textiles, sugar. Silver ore is now the chief mineral product. There are large deposits of copper, gold and zinc. The production of petroleum is increasing. The so-called 'Panama' hats made of Tequila straw are made in Ecuador.

53. EGYPT

(Arab Republic of Egypt)
Jumhuriyah Misr al-Arabiya

Capital: Cairo; **Other Large Cities:** Alexandria, Giza; **Area:** 997,677 sq.km; **Population:** 81,712,517

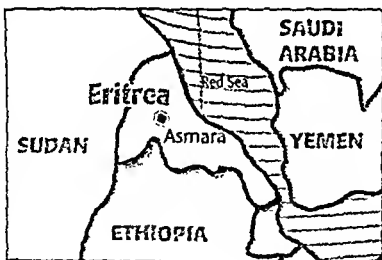
pto 600 m unit. There are also forests of ebony, mahogany and oak. Other products are cocoa, coffee, timber, palm oil and bananas. The country is heavily dependent on foreign aid.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea stationed at Beijing.

56. Eritrea

(State of Eritrea)

Capital: Asmara; **Other Large Cities:** The Ports of Massawa and Assab; **Area:** 117,600 sq. km; **Population:** 5,028,475; **Languages:** Tigrinya Arabic and several other local languages; **Religions:** Muslim, Coptic Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant; **Literacy:** 58.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 60.05; **p.c.i.:** \$ 1,000; **HDI rank:** 157; **Date of Independence:** 24th May, 1993.



Government Type: Transitional Government; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Issaias Afeworki.

History: Eritrea, until recently the northernmost province of Ethiopia, is situated on the African shore of the Red Sea. In 1890, it became an Italian colony but Italy lost the colony to a British inva-



sion force in 1941. After World War II, a U.N. resolution made Eritrea an autonomous, self-

governing region of Ethiopia, apparently against the wishes of most of Eritrea's population. In 1962 Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie formally annexed Eritrea. Beginning in the mid-60's the province was repeatedly torn by fighting between the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and other groups like Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) advocating secession from Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian army. Africa's longest civil war of 31 years ended in 1993 and on May 24, Eritrea became an independent nation—Africa's 52nd. It was admitted to the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations.

There are nine ethnic groups in Eritrea. Massawa is the chief port. Only 5% of the land is under cultivation. Nearly a million Eritreans lived abroad in 1995.

Economy: Agriculture: Sorghum, livestock including camels and goats, Red Sea fishing. Minerals: Gold, copper, potash, iron ore. Exports: Hides, salt, cement, gum arabic.

Mission in India: Hon. Consulate of Eritrea, B-8/14, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 26140830; Telefax: 91-11-26141067.

57. Estonia

(Republic of Estonia)/Esti Vabariik

Capital: Tallinn; **Other Large Cities:** Tartu, Kohtla-Järve; **Area:** 45,100 sq. km; **Population:** 1,307,605; Lan-

Land of No Neighbours

The nearest neighbours of Tristan da Cunha, a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, are 1320 miles away on St. Helena.

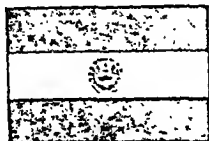
21,393 sq.km; **Population:** 7,066,403; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-83%; **Literacy:** 80.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.06; **p.c.i.:** \$ 5,200; **HDI rank:** 103; **Date of Independence:** 15th September, 1821.

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez.

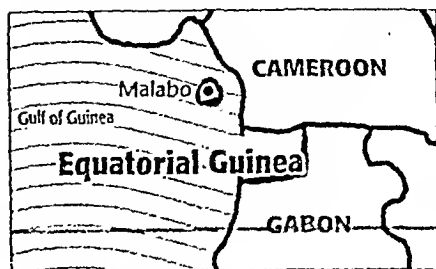
History: El Salvador in Central America became independent of Spain in 1821 and of the Central American Federation in 1839. It is the smallest and the most densely populated of the Central American States and the only one without an Atlantic coast line.

A 12-year civil war that killed 75,000 people ended in 1992. In 1998 Hurricane Mitch killed 200 and made 30,000 homeless. In 2001, earthquakes and drought caused heavy damage.

Economy: The country is predominantly agricultural. The principal crop is coffee which accounts for one half of exports. Other products are cotton, maize and sugar. Fisheries are being developed and figure prominently in the export list. Industry: Food & beverages, textiles, petroleum products.

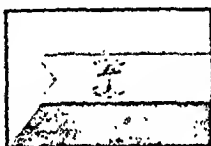


Nominally Christian and predominantly Roman Catholic, pagan practices; **Literacy:** 85.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 61.23; **p.c.i.:** \$ 44,100; **HDI rank:** 127; **Date of Independence:** 12th October, 1968.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Brig-Gen. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo; **PM:** Ricardo Mangué Obama Nfubea.

History: Equatorial Guinea, formerly Spanish Guinea, comprises the islands of Fernando Po (now Bioko),



Cordisbo, Great Elobey, Little Elobey, and Annobon and the mainland territory of Río Muni on the west coast of Africa. In 1975, almost all place names were changed by President Marias Nguema. The capital Santa Isabel thus became Malabo. Marias Nguema was ousted by his nephew, Mbasogo on Sept. 29, 1979. Constitutional rule was resumed in 1992.

Economy: The discovery and exploitation of large oil reserves have contributed to dramatic economic growth in recent years. Forestry, farming and fishing are also major components of GDP. Oil exports account for 95% of GDP.

55 Equatorial Guinea

(Republic of Equatorial Guinea)
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Capital: Malabo; **Other Large Cities:** Bata **Area:** 28,051 sq.km; **Population:** 616,459; **Languages:** Spanish, Fang, Bubi and pidgin English; **Religions:**

Tourism in No. 5

The world's largest industry today is tourism. Each year over 550 million tourists travel abroad and in their own countries.

armed marxist forces which took over the govt. in 1974. Opposition to this government mounted in 1991 and marxist leader Mengistu Haile Mariam had to flee the country. A new government consisting of various groups was formed by the Ethiopian Revolutionary Democratic Front, an umbrella group of ex rebel armies. Eritrea, a province on the Red Sea, declared its independence in 1993.

May, 1995 saw the birth of a new Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia after four years of transitional rule. The new constitution divides Ethiopia into nine ethnically distinct regions, which have the right to secede through a popular referendum.

There was an undeclared war between Ethiopia and Eritrea (May-June, 1998) over an area on the border between the two. Efforts by OAU didn't yield much. Fighting resumed in 1999 and 2000. Thousands died on both sides. In Dec. the two countries formally ended the war, with an accord signed in Algiers, but tensions continued.

Economy: Ethiopia's economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for half of GDP, 60% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is the most important export. Other important exports include qat, live animals, hides, and gold.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 7/50-G, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26119513, 26119514; Fax: 26875731.

E-mail: delethem@yahoo.com

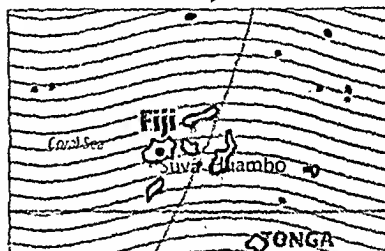
Indian Mission in Ethiopia: Embassy of India, Kabena (Aware District) W-13, K-15, H.No. 224, Post Box 528, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel: 00-251-1-552100, 550694, 556610, 556611; Fax: 00-251-1-552521, 552305.

E-mail: indembassy@telecom.net.et



(Republic of the Fiji Islands)

Capital: Suva; **Other Large Cities:** Lautoka, Nadi; **Area:** 18,376 sq.km; **Population:** 931,741; **Languages:** English, Fijian and Hindi; **Religions:** Christian-53%, Hindu-34%, Muslim-7%, others-5.6%; **Literacy:** 93.7%; **Life Ex-**



pectancy: 70.44; **p.c.i:** \$ 4,100; **HDI rank:** 92; **Date of Independence:** 10th October, 1970.

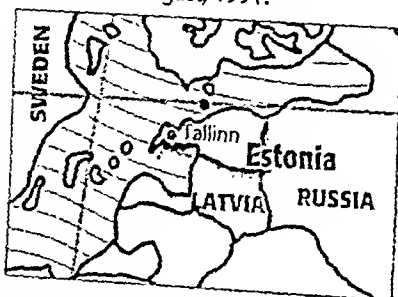
Government Type: Republic; **President:** Ratu Josefa Iloilo Vatu; **PM:** Laisenia Qarase.

Fiji consists of 332 islands and islets in western S. Pacific, lying 1750 km. north of New Zealand. The largest of the islands Viti Levu constituting more than half of the total land area of Fiji islands is the seat of the government. Fiji lies on the main route between Australia, New Zealand and North America and is the

Eating Insects

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has said that 1,400 insect species are eaten in countries around the world. In Thailand 200 species are eaten by humans.

languages: Estonian; **Religions:** Christian: 10%-27.8%; **Literacy:** 99.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.56; **p.c.i.:** \$ 21,800; **HDI rank:** 44; **Date of Independence:** 20th August, 1991.



Government Type: Parliamentary Republic; **Head of State:** Toomas Hendrik Ilves; **PM:** Andrus Ansip.

History: Estonia seceded from Soviet Union and attained independence in 1991, 50 years after the three Baltic states were annexed by Stalin's USSR. The first free elections in over 50 years were held in Sept. '92. Estonia is bounded west and north by the Baltic, east by Russia and south by Latvia.

Economy: Agriculture and dairy farming are the major occupations. Some 2% of the territory is covered by forests, which provide fuel and raw material for industries. Agricultural products: grain, potatoes, vegetables, dairy products. Natural resources: Shale deposits, timber, peat, phosphorites. Industry: ship-building, furniture, match & pulp, leather, garments, agricultural machinery, electric motors.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate

General of the Republic of Estonia, A-11, Kailash Colony, First Floor, New Delhi-110048; Tel: 2923 9808; Fax: 2923 2575.

53. Ethiopia

(Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)/Ye Etiyop'iya Hezbawi Dimokrasiyawi Republick

Capital: Addis Ababa; **Other Large Cities:** Gondar, Dire Dawa; **Area:** 1,221,900 sq.km; **Population:** 78,254,090; **Languages:** Amharic, Oromigna, Tigrigna and 60 other small languages; **Religions:** Christian-60.8%, Muslim-32.8%, traditional 4.6% others-1.8%; **Literacy:** 42.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 49.43; **p.c.i.:** \$700; **HDI rank:** 169.



Government Type: Federal Republic; **President:** Girma Woldegiorgis; **PM:** Meles Zenawi.

History: Black Africa's oldest state formerly known as Abyssinia. A mountainous country in north-east Africa, it has a colourful history. The Ethiopian emperors claimed descent from King Solomon and the famous Queen of Sheba. The last Emperor of Ethiopia Haile Sellasie I was deposed



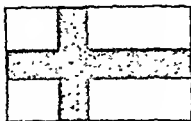
The New Flower

Addis Ababa means 'new flower'. The capital of Ethiopia is also the headquarters of the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Literacy: 100%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.82; **p.c.i:** \$ 35,500; **HDI rank:** 11; **Date of Independence:** 6th December, 1917.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Ms. Tarja Halonen; **PM:** Matti Vanhanen.

History: The Republic of Finland is a Baltic State, which once formed part of the Russian Empire.



Off the southwest coast are the Swedish-populated, autonomous Åland islands, controlling the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia. Finland has more than 20,000 lakes. 62% of the population live in urban areas.

Economy: The most important rural activity is forestry. Finland's vast forests of pine, spruce, and birch support a number of major industries. The extensive pulp and paper sector is responsible for around one-quarter of world paper exports. Other industries are shipbuilding, metals, machinery, textiles, leather and chemicals. Finland was among the first countries to deregulate its telecommunications industry and is now the world's most connected country. Finland now has the highest per capita number of internet connections. Finland has a fairly big fleet of merchant marine. Chief agricultural crops are grains, potatoes and dairy products. With the help of investments in export industries and hi-tech, exports as a share of GDP doubled to 40% in the ten years to 2001. Finland joined the EU on Jan. 1, 1995.

Mission in India: Embassy of Finland, E-3, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri,

New Delhi - 110021. Tel: 4149750
Fax: 41497555

E-mail: sanomat.nde@formin.fi

Consulate: Mumbai, Tel:6639 003

Fax: 6639 0044,

E-mail:finconsmumbai@shrenuj.com

Calcutta: Tel:2287 4328,2290 196

Fax:2287 4329.

E-mail: mpc@cal.vsnl.net.in;

Chennai:Tel:28524141,Fax:28521253.

E-mail:siva_holdings@vsnl.net

Indian Mission in Finland: Embassy of India, Satamakatu 2 A 8, 00160, Helsinki, Finland. Tel: 00-358-9-228991
Fax: 00-358-9-6221208.Email:eoihelsinki@indianembassy.

61 France

(French Republic)/Republique Française

Capital: Paris; **Other Large Cities:** Marseilles, Lyons, Strasbourg; **Area:** 543,960 sq.km; **Population:** 64,057,790; **Languages:** French and regional dialects; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-83%-88%, Protestant-2%, Jewish 1%, Muslim 5%-10%, Unaffiliated-4%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 80.87; **p.c.i:** 33,800; **HDI rank:** 10; **Date of Independence:** 486 (Unification by Clovis)

Government Type: Republic; Pres:



Don't Die

People of the French village Pau were asked in Mar. '08 by a decree from the Mayor not to die in his territory as the cemetery had no room to accommodate new arrivals.



Independence: 17th August, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Omar Bongo; **PM:** Jean Eyeghe Ndong.

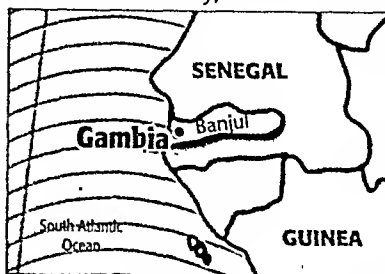
History: The Gabon Republic is situated on the western coast of central Africa. Formerly a province of French Equatorial Africa, Gabon attained independence on Aug. 17, 1960.

Economy: Gabon is one of the most prosperous black African countries. Most of the country is covered by a dense tropical forest. Chief crops are cocoa, coffee, rice, peanuts, sugarcane. The economy, traditionally dependent on forestry, is now dominated by mining. The manganese deposit at Moanda in the south is one of the world's richest deposits. Crude oil production is already the fifth highest in Africa. Uranium, gold and iron ore are also mined. Industry: Processing of food, timber and textiles.

Mission in India: Embassy of Gabon stationed at Tokyo.



Serekunda, Farafenni; Area: 11,29 sq.km; **Population:** 1,735,464; **Languages:** English and Mandinka, Wolof; **Religions:** Muslim-90%, Christian-9%; **Indigenous beliefs-1; Literacy:** 40.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 54.95; **p.c.i:** \$ 800; **HDI rank:** 155; **Date of Independence:** 18th February, 1965



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt:** Lt. Yahya Jammeh.

The Gambia, the smallest African country, is a narrow strip of land in West Africa, extending inland from the Atlantic Ocean for about 30 miles on either side of the Gambia River and surrounded on three sides by Senegal. Nearly half the inhabitants belong to the Mandingo tribe.

History: Formerly a British colony and protectorate, the Gambia became an independent state within the Commonwealth on Feb. 18, 1965 and a Republic in April 1970.

After a coup attempt in 1981, the Gambia formed the confederation of Senegambia with Senegal. This lasted until 1989.



(Republic of The Gambia)

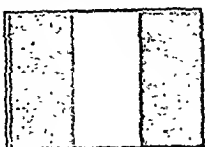
Capital: Banjul; **Other Large Cities:**

Human Trafficking

According to International Human Rights Watch, about 15m. women and children are the victims of trafficking. Over 50% of them are minors.

dent: Nicolas Sarkozy. **PM:** Francois Fillon.

History: France, the largest country in western Europe, lies between three big nations—Spain, Germany and Italy.



The island of Corsica—the birthplace of Napoleon—forms an integral part of France. The French Revolution (1789-1793) made France, once a grand monarchy, a republic. Since then republican and imperial forms of government followed one after another until the Fifth Republic. The French Community came into being in 1958 under President Charles de Gaulle. France is a member of the European Union.

Economy: The country is the largest food producer and exporter in Western Europe. Main crops: Grains, maize, rice, fruits, vegetables, wine, potatoes, livestock and dairy products. Among manufactured products, the most important are chemicals, silk, cotton textiles, automobiles, aircraft, ships, precision instruments, electronic equipment, perfumes and wines. Over the last 20 years urban development and technological progress have changed the people's everyday life

speed train, the TGV.

Overseas Departments: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion.

Overseas Territories: French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, New Caledonia and dependencies, Wallis and Futuna Islands. Overseas departments elect representatives to the National Assembly and the administrative organisation of mainland France applies to them. The administrative organisation of overseas territories includes a locally elected government.

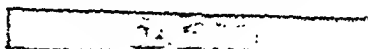
Territorial collectivities: St Pierre and Miquelon; Mayotte.

Mission in India: Embassy of France, 2/50-E, Shantipath, Chanakya Park, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 2419 6111, 2419 6119.

Consulate General of France: 7th Floor, Narayan Point, near to NCPA, Mumbai-400 005. Tel: 22-56694000; Web: www.ambfrancebombay.org.

Indian Mission in France: Embassy of India, 15, Rue Alfred Dreyfus, 75014 Paris, France. Tel: 01-33-1-4733-45243340; Fax: 01-33-1-4733-45243340.

E-mail: embassyindia@paris.fr.



E-mail: georgiaconsulate@rediffmail.
om

65. Germany

(Federal Republic of Germany)
Bundesrepublik Deutschland

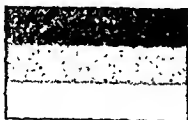
Capital: Berlin; **Other Large Cities:** Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Leipzig;
Area: 357,020 sq.km.; **Population:** 32,369,548; **Languages:** German; **Religions:** Protestant-34%, Roman Catholic-34%, Muslim-3.7%, unaffiliated or others-28.3%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.10; **p.c.i:** \$ 34,400; **HDI rank:** 22; **Date of Independence:** 3rd October, 1990 (date of unification of West Germany and East Germany)



Government Type: Federal Republic;
President: Horst Koehler; **Head of Govt:** Chancellor Angela Merkel.

History: Germany since 1871 had been a nation united in one country of numerous

states which had a common language and traditions. Since World War II, until 1990, it had been split in two parts: Federal Republic of



Germany (West Germany) and German Democratic Republic (East Germany). The merger of the two Germanys took place on Oct. 3, 1990 and the first all-German elections since 1937 were held on Dec. 2, 1990.

Germany is a democratic, parliamentary state with a federal constitution. The Federal Republic is made up of 16 Lander (States). The Bundestag (Federal Diet) is the supreme legislative body. With the addition of 144 members of the East German Volkskammer, the total membership rose to 663 in 1990.

Economy: Of the land 48% is used for agriculture and 29% is wooded. Chief crops: Grains, potatoes, sugar beets. Major mineral resources: Lignite, coal, iron and copper ores and potash. Industry: Steel, ships, vehicles, machinery, coal and chemicals.

Germany has one of the most generous welfare systems with high unemployment benefits and pensions. This comes at a cost, since total deductions shared between employers and workers now amount to more than 40% of pay. Employers argue that having to meet these costs is making the country increasingly uncompetitive. Hourly wage, costs are one-third higher than in the USA or the UK. Another notable feature of the German economy and society is a concern for the environment. The country has intensive systems of recycling—around 7,00,000 jobs are linked with environmental protection.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, No.6/50-G, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 26871831, Telefax: 26873117.

Hitler in Wax

Madame Tussaud's will have a wax likeness of Hitler at its Berlin museum, in spite of opposition.

In July, '94, a military coup ousted President Dawda Jawara, who was in power for 24 years. In Aug. '96, voters approved a constitution paving the way for a return to democracy. The 2-year-old ban on political parties was lifted.

Economy: Peanuts are the main crop, along with rice and palm kernels. Textiles, food and manufactured goods are significant items of import. Tourism is the biggest foreign exchange earner.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Gambia, B-11, May Fair Gardens, New Delhi-110 016; Tel: 26860285; Fax: 91-24532503.

E-mail: kvachani@hotmail.com

64. Georgia

(Republic of Georgia)

Sakaratvelos Respublica

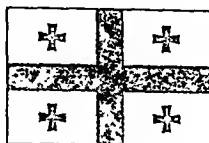
Capital: Tbilisi (Tiflis); **Other Large Cities:** Kutaisi, Batumi; **Area:** 69,700 sq.km; **Population:** 4,630,841; **Languages:** Georgian, Russian; **Religions:** Christian-88.6%, Islam-9.9%; **Literacy:** 100%; **Life Expectancy:** 76.51; **p.c.i.:** \$4,200; **HDI rank:** 96; **Date of Independence:** 9th April, 1991

Government Type: Republic; Presi-



dent: Mikhail Saakashvili; **PM:** Lado Gurgenidze.

History: Georgia, a former Soviet republic, is bordered by the Black Sea, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Georgia has a fine climate and is known for its natural wealth, variety and beauty. It has the largest manganese mines in the world.

Georgia includes the Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Adjara and the former Autonomous Region of South Ossetia.

Economy: Agriculture: Tea, citrus fruits, grapes, grain, vegetables, potatoes, silk, tobacco, bamboo, eucalyptus. Natural resources: Manganese, coal, baryta, oil, marble, iron. Industry: Food processing, tea, brewery, textile, chemical fibres, paper and metallurgy.

Georgia was admitted to the UN as the 179th member in July, 1992 – the last of the former Soviet republics to join the world organisation. It joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) early 1994. In Feb. '94, Georgia signed agreements with Russia for economic and military cooperation. Fighting between government forces and Abkhazian separatists was intense in 1993. In May '94, ceasefire agreement was signed.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate of Georgia, 19 DDA, Community Centre, Zamrudpur, Kailash colony Ext., New Delhi-110 048; Tel: 26431015; Fax: 26447864.

Pet Dogs and Kids

Scientists at the Institute of Epidemiology at the Heimholtz Centre in Munich have found that young children who live with a dog may get an immune-system boost against asthma and other allergies.



tancy: 79.52; **p.c.i:** \$ 30,500; **HDI rank:** 24; **Date of Independence:** 1829.

Government Type: Parliamentary Republic; **President:** Karolos Papoulias; **PM:** Konstandinos Karamanlis.

History: Greece or the Hellenic Republic, on the Mediterranean Sea, occupies the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula in south-east Europe. Ancient Greece's achievements in art, architecture, science, mathematics, philosophy, drama, literature and democracy were unparalleled. The country reached the peak of its glory in the 5th century B.C.

Politically independent till the 1st century B.C., the Greeks succumbed to Roman might in the latter half of that century. Later they came under Byzantine and Ottoman empires. In 1830, Greece gained its freedom as a monarchy. After many vicissitudes of fortune, monarchy was abolished in 1974, since when Greece has been a republic. Greece is a member of the European Union. Numerous islands constitute about

one-fifth of total area, of which the largest is Crete.

Economy: Greece, though till recently an agricultural country, has now developed industrially. In merchant shipping, Greece owns a surprisingly big tonnage. Tourism is Greece's biggest industry. Others: Textiles, chemicals, metals, wine, food processing, cement. Chief crops: Wheat, sugar beet, grapes, other fruits, milk, olive oil, cotton.

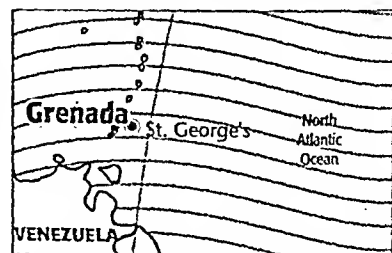
Mission in India: Embassy of Greece, EP-32, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Marg, Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26880700, Telefax: 26888010; E-mail: gremb.del@mfa.grt; Web : www.greeceinindia.com

Indian Mission in Greece: Embassy of India, 3, Kleanthous Street, 10674 Athens, Greece. Tel: 00-30-1-7216227, 7216481; Fax: 00-30-1-7211252.

E-mail: indembassy@ath.forthnet.gr

58. Grenada

Capital: St. George's; **Area:** 344 sq.km; **Population:** 90,343; **Languages:** English and French-African patois; **Religions:** Christian-93%; **Literacy:** 96%; **Life Expectancy:** 65.60; **p.c.i:** \$ 3,900;



A Very Silent Night

A song, which is completely inaudible to human ears, has become a huge hit among the pups of New Zealand. 'A Very Silent Night' was issued as a CD by New Zealand's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals just before Christmas. The song is said to be recorded at such a high sound frequency that only dogs can hear it.

E-mail: info@new-delhi-diplo.de

Indian Mission in Germany: Embassy of India, Tiergartenstrasse 17, 10785 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 00-49-30-257950, 25705001 (After Office Hour) Fax: 00-49-30-25795102 (Chancery).

E-mail: chancery@indiaembassy.de

66. Ghana

(Republic of Ghana)

Capital: Accra; **Other Large Cities:** Kumasi, Takoradi; **Area:** 238,537 sq. km; **Population:** 23,382,848; **Languages:** English (official language) and eight major national languages; **Religions:** Christian-68.8%, Muslim-15.9%, traditional-8.5%; **Literacy:** 57.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 59.49; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,400; **HDI rank:** 135; **Date of Independence:** 6th March, 1957.

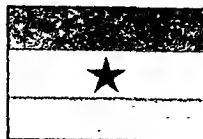


Government Type: Republic; **President (Head of State & Govt):** John Kufour; **Vice President:** Alhaji Aliu Mahama.

A country tucked between Togo and Cote D'Ivoire on the southern coast of West Africa, Ghana is composed of the former British colony Gold Coast and the British-ruled Togoland.

History: Dr.

Kwame Nkrumah was the first President. Coups occurred in 1966, 1972, 1978, 1979



and 1981. A new pluralistic democratic constitution was approved in 1992.

Economy: Ghana is primarily an agricultural country which held position as world's leading producer of cocoa for long. Other crops: kolanuts, palm products, bananas, coffee, maize and rubber. Exports: Timber, gold, diamonds, manganese, bauxite and cocoa. Industry: Aluminium and light industry. Gold and cocoa production, and individual remittances are major sources of foreign exchange.

Mission in India: Ghana High Commission, 50-N, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26883315, 26883298, 26883338; Telefax: 26883202.

E-mail: ghcindia@vsnl.net

Indian Mission in Ghana: High Commission of India, No.9, Ridge Road, Roman Ridge, P.O. Box CT-5708, Accra, Ghana. Tel: 00-233-21-775601, 775602; Fax: 00-233-21-772176.

E-mail: indiahc@ncs.com.gh

67. Greece

(Hellenic Republic) Elliniki Dimokratia

Capital: Athens; **Other Large Cities:** Thessaloniki, Salonika, Larissa; **Area:** 131,990 sq. km; **Population:** 10,722,816; **Languages:** Greek; **Religions:** Greek Orthodox (Christian)-98%, Muslim-1.3%, others-0.7%; **Literacy:** 96%; **Life Expectancy:**

A Papal Visit

When Pope John Paul II visited Greece in 2001, it was the first visit to the country by a Pope in 1,300 years.

Haiti

(Republic of Haiti) Republique d' Haiti
Capital: Port-au-Prince; **Area:** 27,750 sq.km; **Population:** 8,924,553 **Languages:** French (official), and Creole; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-80%, Protestant-16%; **Literacy:** 52.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 57.56; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,900; **HDI rank:** 146; **Date of Independence:** 1st January, 1804.



Government Type: Elected Government; **President:** Rene Preval; **PM:** Jacques-Edouard Alexis.

History: Haiti is part of the West Indies known as Hispaniola in the Atlantic lying between Cuba on the west and Puerto Rico on the east. Negroes form the majority of the population, the rest being mulattoes, descended from former French settlers and slaves.



A 28-year dictatorship by the Duvalier family ended in Feb. 1986. By mid-1990, there had been five governments. Father Jean Bertrand Aristide was elected President in Dec. 1990 but was deposed in a coup and exiled in Sept. '91. The UN imposed a worldwide oil, arms and financial embargo on Haiti in June, 1993.

Aristide returned to Haiti and was restored in office in Oct. '94. A U.N. peace-keeping force took over responsibility for Haiti in March, '95. Aristide transferred power to his elected successor Rene Preval in Feb. '96. He was back in power in November 2000.

Economy: Chief agricultural products: Coffee, sugar, bananas, rice, cocoa, tobacco, sisal and cotton. Industry: Sugar refining, textiles and cement. Rum and other spirits are distilled from molasses and exported. Bauxite is the chief mineral exported. Tourism is Haiti's second largest source of foreign exchange. Two-thirds of Haiti's inhabitants live in poverty, half of all adults are illiterate and less than a quarter of rural children attend primary school. Infant and maternal mortality rates remain among the highest in the world.

Outside Africa, Haiti has the highest rate of HIV infection among adults: 5 percent. It produces more new cases of HIV-AIDS each year than the entire U.S.

Indian Mission in Haiti: Honorary Consulate of India, C/o. Hnadal & Fils, 199, Rue Du Magasin de L'Etat, P.O.Box No.633, Port-au-Prince (Republic of Haiti). Tel: 00-(509) 222310; Fax: 00-(509) 238489.

Honduras

(Republic of Honduras)

Republic de Honduras

Capital: Tegucigalpa D.C.; **Area:** 112,088 sq.km; **Population:** 7,639,327; **Languages:** Spanish and some Indian dialects; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-97%, Protestant-3%; **Literacy:** 80%; **Life Expectancy:** 69.37; **p.c.i:** \$ 3,300; **HDI rank:** 115; **Date of Independence:** 15th Sep-

Named After a Ship

Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, was named after a ship 'Prince' that took shelter there. It became capital in 1749.

HDI rank: 82; **Date of Independence:** 7th February, 1974

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Gov.Gen.:** Daniel Williams; **PM:** Keith Mitchell.

History: Grenada is an island country in the West Indies. It is the most southerly island of the Windward Islands chain and includes Southern Grenadines (islands), the largest of which is Carriacou.



The population is of mixed origin: European, Negro and Carib Indians.

Economy: Tourism is a growing industry but agriculture dominates the economy. Grenada is known as the 'Spice Island' and is the world leader in the production of nutmeg and mace. Other major agricultural products are cocoa, bananas and tropical fruit and vegetables.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate of Grenada, 12, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110 003. Tel: 24354512; Fax: 23328307.

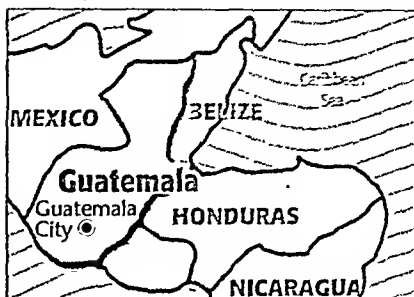
E-mail: skkandhari@vsnl.net

69. Guatemala

(Republic of Guatemala)
Republica de Guatemala

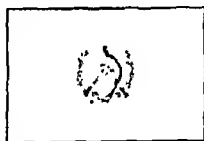
Capital: Guatemala City; **Other Large Cities:** Escuintla, Puerto Barrios; **Area:** 108,889 sq.km; **Population:** 13,002,206; **Languages:** Spanish and Indian dialects; **Religions:** Roman Catholic, Protestant, Indigenous Mayan beliefs; **Literacy:** 69.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 69.99; **p.c.i.:** \$ 5,400; **HDI rank:**

118; **Date of Independence:** 15th September, 1821.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Alvaro Colom Caballeros.

History: Guatemala, a republic, is the northernmost and the third largest of the five central American states



and has the largest population. Fifty per cent of the population is of Indian (Red) origin, 45 per cent Ladino or of mixed European and Indian parentage. The Indians are the descendants of the builders of the great Maya civilisation which was wiped out by the Spanish conquistadors.

After remaining as a Spanish colony for about three centuries (1524 -1821), Guatemala became a republic in 1839. Guatemala's claims to British Honduras (Belize) led to the rupture of diplomatic relations with Britain in 1963. More than 100,000 people have been killed in civil wars since 1961.

Economy: The soil is very fertile. Agriculture is the most important occupation. Principal crop is coffee. Other

Frederick the Great

Frederick the Great of Prussia once tried to run away because of the bad treatment at home. However as King, he ruled for 46 years, nearly twice as long as his father Friedrich Wilhelm I.

two years. The country joined NATO in March '99.

Economy: The private sector accounts for more than 80% of GDP. Hungary exports engineering products, machine tools, motor vehicles and electrical and electronic goods. Chief imports are iron ore, coal, crude oil and consumer goods. More than 97 per cent of agricultural land is collectivised. Vineyards occupy around 186,000 hectares. Other crops: Grains, sunflowers, potatoes and sugar beets.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, 2/50 M, Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26114737; Teleax: 26886742.

E-mail: huembde12@vsnl.com

Indian Mission in Hungary: Embassy of India, Buzavirag utca 14, 1025 Budapest, Hungary. Tel: 00-36-1-3257742, 3257743; Fax: 00-36-1-3257745.

E-mail: chancery@indembassy.hu

Webset: www.indianembassy.hu



(Republic of Iceland) Lyoveldio Island

Capital: Reykjavik; **Area:** 102,846 sq. km; **Population:** 304,367; **Languages:** Icelandic; **Religions:** Lutheran Church of Iceland -85.5%, Reykjavik Free Church-2.1% Roman Catholic-2% Hafnarfjörður



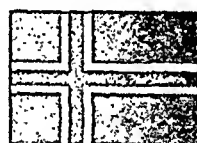
Free Church-1.5%, other Christian-2.7%, other or unspecified-3.8%, unaffiliated-2.4% **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 80.55; **p.c.i:** \$39,400; **HDI rank:** 1; **Date of Independence:** 17th June, 1944.

Government Type: Constitutional Republic; **President:** Olafur Ragnar Grimsson; **PM:** Geir H. Haarde.

Iceland is an island close to the Arctic Circle in the North Atlantic. The Norwegian Sea is on the eastern side of Iceland. The warm Gulf Stream makes the winters mild.

During the short cool summers, there is perpetual daylight for many weeks, making it an island of the Midnight Sun. The island has many geysers and hot springs. Iceland has over 200 volcanoes, many of them still active.

History: The people of Iceland are the descendants of the dare-devil Viking

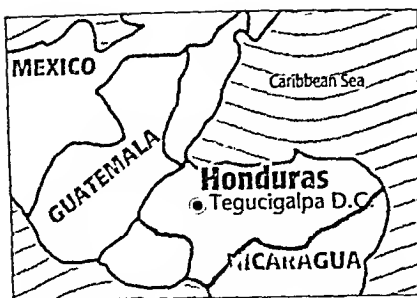


of Norway. After having been independent till the 13th century it became part of Norway and then passed under Danish rule. In 1941 the Althing (the world's oldest surviving parliament) voted for complete independence and a republic was formed on June 17, 1944. Iceland's language has maintained its purity for 1000 years.

Economy: Much of the land in Iceland lies uncultivated. Potatoes, turnips and hay are the major crops. Fishing industry is highly developed. It accounts for nearly 70% of export earnings and employs 6% of the work force. Exports: Marine products and aluminium. Iceland taps thermal and hydro power for energy-hungry industries.

Speed

The average speed of the French express train in 1900 was 54 mph. The French TGV had a speed of 160 mph in 1990.



tember, 1821.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Manuel Zelaya Rosales.

History: Honduras is a republic of Central America lying between Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. It has a long northern coastline on the Caribbean and a narrow southern outlet to the Pacific. Originally a Spanish colony, Honduras became independent in 1821. The country has gone through a series of dictatorships, military juntas, coups and counter-coups.



Economy: Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere. The chief crop is bananas which constitute 65 per cent of the country's exports. Coffee, cotton, maize and tobacco are also grown. Timber is abundant and cattle raising is a major occupation. Industry: Textiles, wood products, cigars, beer and cement.

75. HUNGARY

(Republic of Hungary)

Magyar Koztarsasag

Capital: Budapest; **Other Large Cities:** Miskolc, Debrecen; **Area:** 93,033

sq.km; **Population:** 9,930,915; **Languages:** Hungarian (Magyar); **Religions:** Roman Catholic-51.9%, Calvinist-15.9%, Lutheran-3%, Greek Catholic 2.6% Other Christian 1%, other or unspecified 11.1% unaffiliated 14.5% **Literacy:** 99.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.12; **p.c.i:** \$ 19,500; **HDI rank:** 36; **Date of Independence:** 1001 (Date of unification by King Stephen I).



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Laszlo Solyom; **PM:** Ferenc Gyurcsany.

Hungary is situated in East Central Europe. The eastern half of Hungary is mainly a great fertile plain, 'the Great Plain'. The west and the north are hilly.

History: Hungary had a stormy history being successively overrun by Huns, Magyars, Turks, Hungarians and Austrians. Hungary became an independent republic in 1918 and the Hungarian Socialist Republic in 1919. In 1990, Hungary embraced democracy and market economy. The last Soviet troops left Hungary in June, 1991. In July '97, NATO invited Hungary to become a full member of the alliance within

The Birth of the Helicopter

The Nazis forbade Heinrich Focke to design conventional aircraft because of his 'political unreliability'. Focke's answer was the helicopter. The first manned version of the helicopter was devised in 1936.

Netherlands transferred sovereignty to Indonesia on December 27, 1949. A republic was declared August 17, 1950, with Dr. Sukarno as president. Gen. Suharto, head of the army was named President in 1968.

Economy: One of the world's richest countries in natural resources, Indonesia has vast supplies of tin, oil and fairly big deposits of bauxite, copper, nickel, gold and silver. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. Crops include rice, tobacco, coffee, rubber, cassava, maize, pepper, kapok, coconut, palm oil, tea and sugarcane. Forest products are a major source of foreign exchange. Food processing, textiles, paper, cement, automobile & cycle assembly works and chemicals factories have developed.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, 50-A, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26118642-45; Fax: 26874402, 26886763, 26888279.

E-mail: iembassy@giasd101.vsnl.net.in
Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia: 19, Altamount Road, Cumballa Hill, Mumbai-400 026; Ph: 91-22-23868678, 23800940; E-mail: kjr-mumb@bom3.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in Indonesia: Embassy of India, S-1, Jalan H.R. Rasuna Said, Kuningan, Jakarta-12950, Indonesia. Tel: 00-62-21-5204150, 5204152, 5204157; Fax: 00-62-21-5204160.

E-mail: embassyofindiajakarta.org

Iran

(Islamic Republic of Iran)

Jomhori-e-Islami-e-Iran

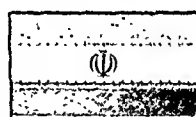
Capital: Teheran; **Other Large Cities:** Esfahan, Mashad; **Area:** 1,648,000 sq. km; **Population:** 65,875,223; **Languages:**

Persian (Farsi), Turk, Kurdish, Arabic; **Religions:** Shi'a Muslim-89%, Sunni Muslim-9%, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian and Baha'i-2%; **Literacy:** 77%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.86; **p.c.i:** \$ 12,300; **HDI rank:** 94; **Date of Independence:** 1st April, 1979.



Government Type: Islamic Republic; **President:** Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad.

History: Iran, formerly Persia, lies between Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf and consists of a central plateau



surrounded by mountains. A popular revolution of Islamic character swept the long ruling Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi from power and installed a strict clerical leadership under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, spiritual leader of the Shia Muslim community.

Iran is a country of great antiquity, celebrated alike for its culture and military valour.

Economy: Agriculture employs 30% of the labour force. The chief products are wheat, barley, rice, fruits (largest producer of dates), wool and sugar beets. Iran is one of the biggest oil-producing

Pistachio Trees

A pistachio tree produces nuts for 100 years and more. Pistachio trees in California are over 150 years old, while those in Iran and Syria go back to even 300 years.

Mission in India: Embassy of Iceland, 11, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi, -110021. Tel: 4353 0300; Fax: 4240 3001.

Consulates: Consulate General, 'Speedbird House', 41/2 M, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110 001. Tel: 23417122; Fax: 23416275.

E-mail: khemka@13.vsnl.net.in

E-mail: Khemka@de13.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in Iceland: Honorary Consulate General of India, Solvalagata 48, 101, Reykjavik, Iceland. P.O. Box No. 678, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 00-354-1-28255; Fax: 00-354-1-625010.

77. India

Capital: New Delhi; **Other Large Cities:** Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai; **Area:** 3,287,263 sq.km.; **Population:** 1,147,995,898; **Languages:** Hindi (official), English, 18 officially recognised languages; **Religions:** Hindu-80.5%, Muslim-13.4%, Christian-2.3%, Sikh- 1.9%, Other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1%; **Literacy:** 61%; **Life Expectancy:** 69.25; **p.c.i:** \$ 2,700; **HDI rank:** 128; **Date of Independence:** 15th August, 1947.



Government Type: Federal Republic; **President:** Smt. Pratibha Patil; **PM:** Dr. Manmohan Singh.

For details see Part- Eight, India

78. Indonesia

(Republic of Indonesia)

Republik Indonesia

Capital: Jakarta; **Other Large Cities:** Surabaya, Bandung; **Area:** 1,904,569 sq.km; **Population:** 237,512,355; **La-**

guages: Bahasa Indonesian, Dutch, English, Javanese and other Austronesian languages; **Religions:** Muslim-86.1%, Protestant-5.7%, Roman Catholic-3%, Hindu-1.8%, other or unspecified 3.4%; **Literacy:** 90.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.46; **p.c.i:** \$ 3,400; **HDI rank:** 107; **Date of Independence:** 17th August, 1945.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

History: Formerly the Dutch East Indies, the Republic of Indonesia, the biggest Islamic nation, is an archipelago state consisting of about 13,500 (6000 inhabited) islands extending some 5150 km. along the Equator in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The largest islands of the archipelago are Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Sulawesi and Irian Jaya.

The islands were made an integral part of the Netherlands Kingdom in 1922. During World War II Indonesia was under Japanese military occupation. On Aug. 17, 1945, Indonesia proclaimed independence from the Dutch.

After a war of independence, the

A President's First

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono brought in a foreigner to the \$20,000 during an exhibition in Jakarta in March 2005.

Netherlands transferred sovereignty to Indonesia on December 27, 1949. A republic was declared August 17, 1950, with Dr. Sukarno as president. Gen. Suharto, head of the army was named President in 1968.

Economy: One of the world's richest countries in natural resources, Indonesia has vast supplies of tin, oil and fairly big deposits of bauxite, copper, nickel, gold and silver. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. Crops include rice, tobacco, coffee, rubber, cassava, maize, pepper, kapok, coconut, palm oil, tea and sugarcane. Forest products are a major source of foreign exchange. Food processing, textiles, paper, cement, automobile & cycle assembly works and chemicals factories have developed.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, 50-A, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi- 110021. Tel: 26118642-45; Fax: 26874402, 26886763, 26888279.

E-mail: iembassy@giasd101.vsnl.net.in

Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia: 19, Altamount Road, Cumballa Hill, Mumbai-400 026; Ph: 91-22-23868678, 23800940; E-mail: kjirmumb@bom3.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in Indonesia: Embassy of India, S-1, Jalan H.R. Rasuna Said, Kuningan, Jakarta-12950, Indonesia. Tel: 00-62-21-5204150, 5204152, 5204157; Fax: 00-62-21-5204160.

E-mail: embassyofindiajakarta.org

Iran

(Islamic Republic of Iran)
Jomhori-e-Islami-e-Iran

Capital: Teheran; **Other Large Cities:** Esfahan, Mashad; **Area:** 1,648,000sq.km; **Population:** 65,875,223; **Languages:**

Persian (Farsi), Turk, Kurdish, Arabic; **Religions:** Shi'a Muslim-89%, Sunni Muslim-9%, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian and Baha'i-2%; **Literacy:** 77%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.86; **p.c.i:** \$ 12,300; **HDI rank:** 94; **Date of Independence:** 1st April, 1979.



Government Type: Islamic Republic; **President:** Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad.

History: Iran, formerly Persia, lies between Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf and consists of a central plateau



surrounded by mountains. A popular revolution of Islamic character swept the long-ruling Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi from power and installed a strict clerical leadership under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, spiritual leader of the Shia Muslim community.

Iran is a country of great antiquity, celebrated alike for its culture and military valour.

Economy: Agriculture employs 30% of the labour force. The chief products are wheat, barley, rice, fruits (largest producer of dates), wool and sugar beets. Iran is one of the biggest oil-producing

Pistachio Trees

A pistachio tree produces nuts for 100 years and more. Pistachio trees in California are over 150 years old, while those in Iran and Syria go back to even 300 years.

regions in the Middle East. It owns 7.5% of total world oil reserves and 15% of global gas deposits. Emeralds and other gems are found in Khorassan and Kerman. Persian carpets, made on handlooms are famous. Other industries: Textiles, cement, processed foods, steel and copper fabrication.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, No. 5, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001. Tel: 23329600-02; Fax: 23325493, 23713704 (Armed Forces).

E-mail: info@iran-embassy.org.in

Consulate General of The Islamic Republic of Iran: "Swapnalok", First Floor, 47, Nepean Sea Road, Mumbai-400 026; Ph: 022-2363 0073, 2363 4102, 2363 1029.

Indian Mission in Iran: Embassy of India, 46, Mir-Emad Avenue, Tehran. Tel: 00-98-21-8755105-7; Fax: 00-98-21-8755973, 8745557.

E-mail: indemteh@dpimail.net

80. Iraq

(Republic of Iraq) al Jumhoriya al 'Iraqia

Capital: Baghdad; Other Large Cities: Basra, Mosul; **Area:** 438,446 sq.km; **Population:** 28,221,181; **Languages:** Arabic (official) and Kurdish; **Religions:** Muslim-97% (Shi'a-60-65%, Sunni-32-37%), Christian and others-3%; **Literacy:** 74.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 69.62; **p.c.i.:** \$ 3,600; **Date of Independence:** 3rd October, 1932.

Government Type: Transitional Government; Govt.: The country is under U.S. control; **President:** Jalal Talabani; **P.M.:** Nuri al-Maliki.



History: Iraq in the Middle East, is the modern name for Mesopotamia (Mesopotamia, Potamia-rivers), the land lying between the two great rivers, Euphrates and Tigris.

Iraq is one of the most ancient countries of the world and has produced a culture—the Mesopotamian Civilisation – which has influenced European and Asian civilisations.

An international crisis was sparked when Iraq overran Kuwait in Aug., 1990. A US-led coalition beat Iraq in Feb, 1991. An estimate puts casualties at 85,000.

Economy: Three quarters of the population depend on agriculture for their living. Chief products: Wheat, barley, rice, dates (largest exporter), cotton, sugarcane, livestock. Petroleum is the most important sector of the economy. Iraq occupies the fifth place among oil-producing countries. Industry: Petrochemicals, textiles, oil refining and cement.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, B-5/8, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Tel: 26149085; Telefax: 26149076.

Airport Building Spree

China is to build 97 more airports by 2020, bringing the total number to 239. Of these, 13 are projected to handle 30 m. passengers a year.

Indian Mission in Iraq: Embassy of India, House No.6, Zokak No. 25, Mohammadalla 306, Hay Al Magrib, P.O. Box-4114, Adhamiya, Baghdad, Iraq. Tel: 00-964-1-4225438; Fax: 00-964-1-4229549. E-mail: eoibaghdad@yahoo.com

81 Ireland

(Republic of Ireland) Eire

Capital: Dublin; **Other Large Cities:** Cork, Limerick; **Area:** 70,282 sq.km; **Population:** 4,156,119; **Languages:** Irish and English; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-88.4%, Church of Ireland-3%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.07; **p.c.i:** \$ 45,600; **HDI rank:** 5; **Date of Independence:** 6th December, 1921.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Mrs. Mary McAleese; **PM:** Brian Cowen.

Ireland or Eire, the Emerald Isle, is an island in the N. Atlantic lying west of Great Britain.

The independent state of Ireland consists of only 26 counties out of the 32 that make up the whole island. The 6 remaining counties form the area known as Northern Ireland which is directly administered by the United Kingdom.

History: Ireland emerges in history with the coming of St. Patrick in A.D. 432 and the spread of Christianity. An invasion

led by Norman barons during the 12th century led to a period of almost eight centuries of British rule in Ireland. In 1921 Great Britain recognised Ireland as a more or less independent unit within the Commonwealth and the country became known as the Irish Free State. In 1932 the Fianna Fail party under Eamon de Valera came to power and gradually removed the last vestiges of allegiance to the British Crown. In 1937, a new constitution was adopted which made Ireland effectively a republic. In 1949 Ireland formally declared itself a Republic and ceased to be a member of the Commonwealth. Ireland is a member of the EU.

In 1993, the Irish and British governments made a peace plan to resolve the Northern Ireland issue. Much of it was rejected by Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), an extremist group working for the unification of Ireland. On Aug. 31, 1994, IRA announced ceasefire and said it would use only political means to achieve unification. When peace talks lagged, it resumed the terror campaign in Feb. '96. In 1997, Sinn Fein won a seat in Ireland's parliament for the first time since 1981. On July 20, IRA declared 'unequivocal' ceasefire.

In Feb. 1998, following sectarian killings blamed on IRA, Britain wanted the Republicans ejected from the peace

Mary Robinson

Mary Robinson, who became U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, was a former President of Ireland.

withdrew from Sinai by Apr., 1982.

On Aug. 30, 1993, limited Palestinian autonomy was approved by Israel, in a step towards ending 26 years of military control over occupied territories. Israel was to withdraw from Gaza Strip and Jericho. On Sept. 13, the historic accord between PLO and Israel was signed in Washington for limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and West Bank. Israel and Jordan signed (July, '94) a declaration ending 46-year state of war. Israeli-PLO agreement of Aug. '95 expanded Palestinian self-rule in West Bank.

Under an accord of Oct. '98, Israel yielded more West Bank territory to Palestinians in exchange for new security guarantees. In June 1999, Israel announced plans to extend Jerusalem municipal authority over nearby Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Palestinians called it a 'de facto annexation'. In Sept. Israel and Palestinians signed an agreement providing for the implementation of the Wye Memorandum.

On May 25, 2003 Israeli cabinet approved plan for a Palestinian state by 2005 as per the US-backed peace 'road map'. Strong disagreement arose in July between Israel and Palestinian Authority over the number of Palestinian prisoners Israel was prepared to release. Israel went ahead with building the controversial security fence that divides Israel and Palestinian areas. Hamas leader Abu Shanab was killed by Israel. Hope for the road map was shattered. In Set., Israel said it was prepared to 'remove' Arafat.

Economy: Israel has developed both agriculture and industry in the little land allotted to it with considerable expertise

and efficiency. They have literally made the deserts bloom. Kibbutzim (collective cultivation), irrigation schemes and reclamation of desert-land formed the main feature of agricultural development. Citrus fruits are the main exports. Wine-making is an extensive industry. In diamond-cutting, Israel comes next only to Belgium. Other industries are textiles, electronics, machinery, processed foods and chemicals.

Gaza Strip: Area-363 sq.km; Pop-1,054,200. Agreements between Israel and PLO in 1993 and '94 provided for interim self-rule in Gaza. Israel is in control of security, while Palestinian Authority is responsible for civil govt. Most inhabitants are Palestinian Arabs.

West Bank: Area- 5,879 sq. km; Pop.-1,557,000. Palestinian Authority administers several major cities, but Israel retains control over much land. In '94, Jericho was given to Palestinian control. Self-rule was expanded in '95. In '97 there was agreement on partial pullout from Hebron.

Mission in India: Embassy of Israel, 3, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi-110 011; Tel:(011)3041 4500; Fax:(011)3041 4555.

E-mail :info@newdelhi.mfa.gov.il

Indian Mission in Israel: Embassy of India, 140 Hayarkon Street,P.O Box 3368, Tel Aviv 61033, Israel. Tel: 03-529 1999,529 1639,529 1663; Fax: 03-5291953.

E-mail:indemtel@indembassy.co.il



(Italian Republic) Repubblica Italiana

Capital: Rome; **Other Large Cities:** Milan, Naples, Turin, Florence; **Area:**

Men's Government

Italy is 67th in the ranking of nations by the number of women in Parliament, according to International Parliamentary Union. Only 17% of seats in the Lower House and 14% in Upper House are held by women.

alks, but Sinn Fein, fought to stay on. Negotiators in N. Ireland approved a peace settlement on Good Friday, April 10, 1998. The Real IRA split from the IRA because it opposed the Northern Irish peace process.

Economy: Ireland had formerly a mainly agricultural economy. Chief crops: Grains, potatoes, sugar beets, vegetables, fruits. In recent decades industrial output has expanded rapidly due to increased foreign investment. Ireland now has affiliates of more than 1,000 foreign companies employing more than 90,000 workers. They account for around 30% of the economy and 40% of exports, and include major computer companies such as IBM, Intel, Fujitsu and Dell. Tourism is also a major earner.

Mission in India: Embassy of Ireland, 230 Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003. Tel: 24626733, 24629135(Visa); Fax: 24697053.

E-mail: newdelhiembassy@dfa.ie

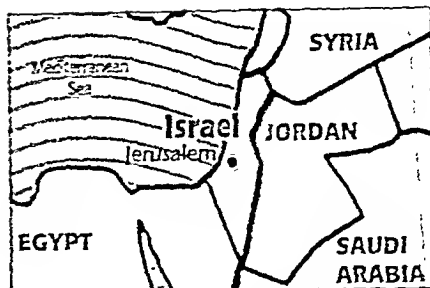
Indian Mission in Ireland: Embassy of India, 6, Leeson Park, Dublin-6, Ireland. Tel: 00-353-1-4970843, 4970959; Fax: 00-353-1-4978074.

E-mail: indembassy@eircom.net

82 Israel

(State of Israel) Medinat Israel

Capital: Jerusalem; **Other Large Cities:** Tel Aviv, Haifa; **Area:** 20,772 sq.km; **Population:** 7,112,359; **Languages:** Hebrew (official) and Arabic; **Religions:** Jewish-76.4%, Muslim-16%, Christian-2.1%, Druze-1.6%, unspecified-3.9%; **Literacy:** 97.1%; **Life Expectancy:**



80.61; p.c.i: 5 28,800; HDI rank: 23; Date of Independence: 14th May, 1948

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Shimon Peres **PM:** Ehud Olmert.

History: A Republic in the Middle East (West Asia), Israel is surrounded on three sides by



Arab countries. It occupies a minor portion of the ancient Palestine.

On November 29, 1947, the UN partitioned Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs. A new Zionist state called Israel was proclaimed in the Jewish area of Palestine in 1948. Arabs make up about one-sixth of Israel's population.

Neighbouring Arab States invaded Israel. At the ceasefire in Jan. 1949, Israel had increased its territory by one-third. There have been conflicts with Egypt in the 1956 Suez crisis; the 1967 'Six-Day War' which left Israel in possession of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (of the River Jordan) and the Sinai Peninsula. Negotiations between Israel and Egypt began in 1978 (Camp David, USA). A peace treaty was signed in March 1979. Israel

A Paediatrician's Terror Tactics

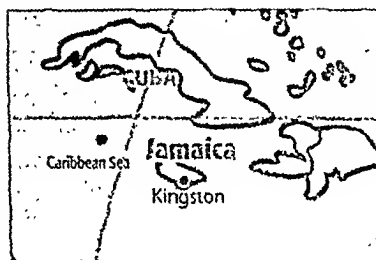
George Habash, who rejected Yasser Arafat's PLO in 1967 to found the Marxist group Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and pioneered modern terrorist tactics in the war, was a paediatrician.

Ivory Coast

(See under Cote D'Ivoire)

84. Jamaica

Capital: Kingston; **Area:** 11,425 sq. km; **Population:** 2,804,332; **Languages:** English and Jamaican Creole; **Religions:** Protestant-62.5%, Roman Catholic-2.6%, others including some spiritual cults-34.9%; **Literacy:** 87.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.59; **p.c.i.:** \$4,800; **HDI rank:** 101; **Date of Independence:** 6th August, 1962.



Government Type: Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy; **Gov. Gen.:** Kenneth O. Hall; **PM:** Bruce Golding.

Jamaica, an island in the Greater Antilles group of the West Indies, is situated in the Caribbean Sea, 144 km south of Cuba.

History: Jamaica was visited by Columbus in 1494 and ruled by Spain till 1655 when Britain occupied it. On August 6, 1962 Jamaica became fully independent and a member of the Commonwealth. About 75% of the population is of African ethnic origin.



Economy: The economy is heavily dependent on services, which account for more than 60% of GDP. Jamaica derives most of its foreign exchange from tourism, remittances, and bauxite/alumina. The dominant crop is sugar, with molasses and rum as important by-products. Bananas, citrus fruits and coconuts are also grown. Jamaica is the world's second largest producer of bauxite and alumina. Other industries are cement, tobacco, consumer goods and tourism.

Mission in India: Embassy of Jamaica stationed at Ottawa

Indian Mission in Jamaica: High Commission of India, 4, Retreat Avenue, P.O. Box No. 446, Kingston-6, Jamaica. Tel: 00-1-876-9273114, 9274270; Fax: 00-1-876-978280, 97803591.

E-mail: hicomindkin@cwjamaica.com

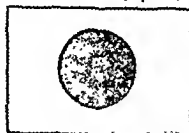
85. Japan

(Nippon)

Capital: Tokyo; **Other Large Cities:** Yokohama, Osaka, Sapporo, Kyoto, Hiroshima; **Area:** 377,765 sq. km; **Population:** 127,288,419; **Languages:** Japanese; **Religions:** Shinto and Buddhism-84%, others-16% (including Christian-0.7%); **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 82.07; **p.c.i.:** \$33,800; **HDI rank:** 8; **Date of Independence:** 660 B.C.

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** Emperor Akihito; **PM:** Yasuo Fukuda.

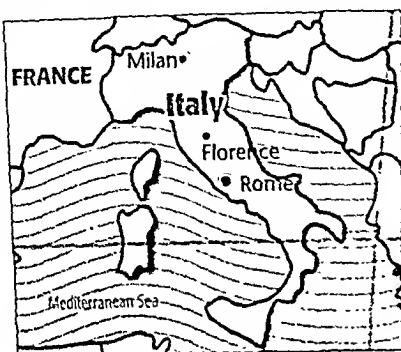
History: Japan, an archipelago off the E. coast of Asia, consists of four main islands, Honshu (Mainland), Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku and



UN Issues Stamps

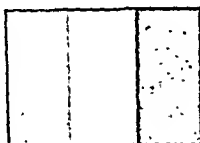
The only organisation in the world which is neither a country nor a territory that is permitted to issue postage stamps is the United Nations.

301,278 sq.km.; Population: 58,145,321; Languages: Italian; Religions: Roman Catholic; Literacy: 98.4%; Life Expectancy: 80.07; p.c.i: \$ 31,000; HDI rank: 20; Date of Independence: 17th March, 1861.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Giorgio Napolitano; **PM:** Silvio Berlusconi.

History: The Italian Republic occupies the long peninsular area in Europe shaped like a boot extending from the Alps into the Mediterranean Sea. The islands of Sicily (off the toe of the boot), Sardinia, Elba and Capri in the Mediterranean belong to Italy.



Mount Etna, an active volcano, rises to 3,274 m. Italy's largest northern lakes are Garda, Maggiore and Como. The main river is the Po.

Italy, once the headquarters of the great Roman Empire, disintegrated into many petty states during the latter Middle Ages. Modern Italy began to develop when King Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy

became ruler.

On April 28, 1945 Benito Mussolini, the Fascist dictator, was put to death. Consequent on a referendum on June 2, 1946, Italy voted for a Republic. The king laid down his kingship. Italy is a member of the European Union.

Economy: Since World War II, Italy has revolutionised agricultural production. The chief crops are grapes, wheat, sugarbeet, fruits and vegetables. Italy is among the highly industrialised countries of the world, main products being steel, machinery, electrical, mechanical and electronic gadgets, automobiles, chemicals, cement, textiles and shoes. Italy is world's largest jewellery maker. Tourism is an important source of revenue, providing employment and an influx of foreign currency.

In economic terms, the country's great strength has been in manufacturing. It does have some large multinational companies, notably Fiat (cars) and Olivetti (telecommunications), but manufacturing is dominated by networks of thousands of small firms, chiefly in clothing, furniture, kitchen equipment, and white goods such as refrigerators and cookers.

Mission in India: Embassy of Italy, 50-E, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26114355, 26114359; Telefax: 26873889.

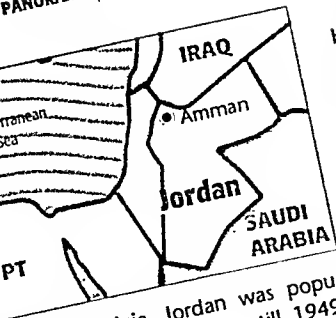
E-mail: ambasciata.newdelhi@esteri.it

Indian Mission in Italy: Embassy of India, Via XX Settembre, 5, 00187, Rome, Italy. Tel: 00-39-06-4884642 to 45; Fax: 00-39-06-4819539.

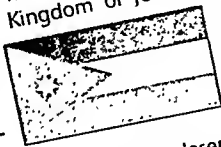
E-mail: ind.emb@flashnet.it

Growth of Capitals

Buenos Aires, the capital, holds a third of Argentina's population. More than half of Uruguay's people live in its capital Montevideo.



South-west Asia, Jordan was popularly known as Trans-Jordan till 1949, when the popular name was changed to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The population is chiefly Arab of whom the majority are Muslims.



Economy: Jordan is largely desert but the western portion is fertile and produces citrus fruits, wheat, barley, lentils and water melons. Phosphate and potash make up the country's most important export item, but tourism remains its main foreign exchange earner.

Economic growth was remarkable during 1977-'82, described as the 'boom years'. School enrollment is currently one of the highest among developing countries - 94% for basic education. Almost 99% of the population have access to electricity and safe water. Industry accounts for 26% of GDP, agriculture 4%, and services sector 70%.

Textiles, cement, food-processing, petroleum products, iron and fertiliser are major industries.

On July 25, 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a joint declaration in Washington, ending 46 years of hostility.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 30, Golf Links, New Delhi-110003; Tel: 24653318, 24653099; Fax: 24653353.
E-mail: jordan@jordanembassyindia.org

Indian Mission in Jordan: Embassy of India, Jabal Amman, 1st Circle, Post Box 2168, Amman, Jordan. Tel: 00-962 6-4622098, 4637262; Fax: 00-962-4659540.
E-mail: amb.amman@mea.gov.in



Kazakhstan
(Republic of Kazakhstan)
Kazak Respubli-kasy

Capital: Astana (also known as Akmolai);
Other Large Cities: Karaganda, Chimkent; **Area:** 2,717,300 sq.km; **Population:** 15,340,533; **Languages:** Kazakh, Russian, German; **Religions:** Muslim-47%, Russian Orthodox-44%, Protestant-2%, others-7%; **Literacy:** 99.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 67.55; **P.c.i.:** \$ 11,10; **HDI rank:** 73; **Date of Independence:** 16th December, 1991.

Government Type: Republic; President: Nursultan A. Nazarbayev; Prime Minister: Karim Masimov.

History: A former Soviet Republic.



Somers Island

Somers Island is the old name of Bermuda, a self-governing colony under British control.



a number of smaller islands of which Okinawa is one. Japan has a deeply indented coastline measuring 26,600 km. Main ports are Yokohama, Kobe, Nagoya and Osaka. There are about 60 more or less active volcanoes of which the best known is Mount Aso. The famous Mount Fuji is not active. Legend has it that the Japanese Empire was founded by Emperor Jimmu in 660 B.C. In A.D. 1868 Emperor Meiji united the whole of Japan under his rule. Japan had little trade relations with foreign countries until 1871 when it entered into a trade treaty with USA. After the feudal system was abolished, westernisation set in. In 1952, Japan regained its sovereignty. Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 raised her prestige among European powers.

Economy: Rice, the staple food of Japan, is cultivated in half the area of arable land. Other crops are wheat, barley, potatoes and tobacco. Except for limestone and sulphur, Japan is poor in minerals and Japanese industry is heavily dependent on imported raw materials and fuel. Japan, one of the most indus-

trially advanced countries of the world, is a leader in technology and the world's second richest country. The principal industries are automobiles, iron and steel, chemicals, textiles (cotton, wool, silk and synthetics), fishing, ceramics, precision instruments, fertilisers, machinery and shipbuilding. Japan has evolved an extensive fishing industry.

Mission in India: Embassy of Japan, 50-G Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021. Tel: 26876581, 26876564; Fax: 26885587.

E-mail: jpembjc@bol.ne.in

Web: www.japan-emb.org.in

Cultural & Information Centre, 32-Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110 001. Tel:3329803; Fax:371-2124

Indian Mission in Japan: Embassy of India, 2-2-11, Kudan-Minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo-102 0074, Japan. Tel: 00-81-3-32622391 to 97; Fax: 00-81-3-32344866.

E-mail: indembjp@gol.com.

86. JORDAN

(Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) al Mamlaka al Urduniya al Hashemiyah

Capital: Amman; **Other Large Cities:** Zarka, Irbid, Salt; **Area:** 89,287 sq.km; **Population:** 6,198,677; **Languages:** Arabic and English; **Religions:** Sunny Muslim-92%, Christian-6%, others-2%; **Literacy:** 89.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.71; **p.c.i.:** \$4,700; **HDI rank:** 86; **Date of Independence:** 25th May, 1946.

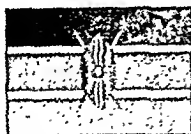
Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Abdullah II; **PM:** Nader al-Dahabi.

History: A constitutional monarchy

Higher than Everest

Mauna Kea in Hawaii is 4,446 ft. higher than the Everest (29,028 ft.). It is a volcano that rises 33,476 ft. from its base, the sea floor. Only 13,796 ft. can be seen above sea-level.

liberation struggle icon Jomo Kenyatta led Kenya from independence in 1963 until his death in 1978, when president Daniel Arap Moi took power in a constitutional succession. The country was a de facto one-party state



from 1969 until 1982 when the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) made itself the sole legal party in Kenya. President Moi stepped down in 1992 following fair and peaceful elections.

Economy: Kenya's prosperity rests largely on agricultural products. The chief cash crops are coffee, tea, sisal, cereals, wattle and pyrethrum. Kenya has a significant dairy industry. Mineral industries are being organised. Other industries include textiles, consumer goods and processed foods. Major exports are tea, coffee, horticulture, petroleum products and cement. Imports include crude petroleum, industrial machinery, iron and steel and drugs. Tourism has expanded considerably. Large game reserves have been developed.

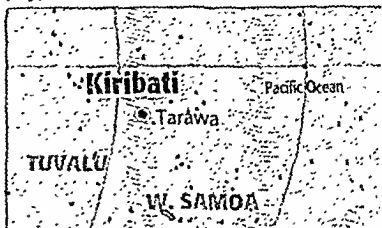
Mission in India: High Commission of Kenya, 34, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110 057. Tel: 2614 6537/38, 26146540; Fax: 2614 6550.

Indian Mission in Kenya: High Commission of India, Jeewan Bharati Building, Harambee Avenue, P.O. Box 30074, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 00-254-2-222566, 222567, 224500, 225180; Fax: 00-254-2-316242. E-mail: hciindia@kenyaweb.com/hcinfo@connect.co.ke

89: Kiribati

(Republic of Kiribati) Ribaberikin Kiribati

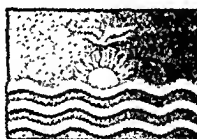
Capital: Tarawa; **Area:** 861 sq. km; **Population:** 110,356; **Languages:** Gilbertese and English; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-52%, Protestant (Congregational)-40%; **Life Expectancy:** 62.85; **p.c.i.** \$ 1800; **Date of Independence:** 12th July, 1979.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State and Govt.:** Anote Tong.

History: Gilbert islands, till recently a British colony, became independent under the name Kiribati (pronounced Kiribas) in July, 1979.

Economy: These islands, spread over a vast area in South West Pacific, number around 33. All islands except Ocean



Island (Banaba) are low atolls with coconuts, pandanus and breadfruit forming the main vegetation

The population is Micronesian and Polynesian. Agriculture and fishing are the main occupations. Ocean Island has high grade phosphate deposits which are being mined and exported. Copra is the other major export item.

4000 Killed by Polluted Water

More than 4000 people die every day from water-borne diseases, says WHO. The ADB estimates that 2 b. people in the region lack access to sanitation facilities.

high declared independence on December 16, 1991, Kazakhstan stretches from the Chinese border to the Caspian Sea and is bounded by Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

This second largest former Soviet Republic is an ethnically diverse country whose population includes over hundred nationalities. About 60% of the people live in urban areas. Half of the population is Russian or Ukrainian working on farms and in industries.

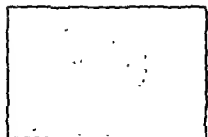
In July, '98 Kazakhstan and Russia signed a pact of 'eternal friendship and cooperation' which provides for mutual military assistance in case of outside aggression against either.

Economy: Agriculture: Grain, sugar beet, potatoes, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, cotton. Noted for its sheep from which high quality wool is obtained.

Natural resources: Half of former Soviet Union's total deposits of copper, lead and zinc are in Kazakhstan. Other minerals: coal, tungsten, oil, nickel, uranium, molybdenum, manganese. Kazakhstan has the second largest oil field in the world in Kasagan, and sits on estimated 3 billion tonnes of oil and 1 billion tonnes of gas.

Industry: Iron ore, sulphuric acid, agricultural machinery, ferroconcrete, footwear, hosiery. Among former Soviet Union's industrial republics, Kazakhstan has the third place.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 61, Poonji Marg,



Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 052; Tel: 4600 7710, 4600 7700; Telefax: 4600 7701.

E-mail: embassy@kazind.com

Indian Mission in Kazakhstan:

Embassy of India, Ulitsa Maulanova 71, Almaty-480091, Kazakhstan. Tel: 00-73272-921411/ 694746; Fax: 00-7-3272-92667.

E-mail: ambind@netel.kz



(Republic of Kenya) Jamhuriya Kenya

Capital: Nairobi; **Other Large Cities:** Mombasa, Kisumu; **Area:** 582,646 sq. km; **Population:** 37,953,898; **Languages:** Kiswahili, English, Kikuyu and several other local languages; **Religions:** Protestant 45%, Roman Catholic 35%, Indigenous beliefs 15%, Muslim 1%, others 2%; **Literacy:** 25%; **Life expectancy:** 56.5; **Birth rate:** 27.5; **Infant mortality rate:** 127; **Date of Independence:** 12th December, 1963.



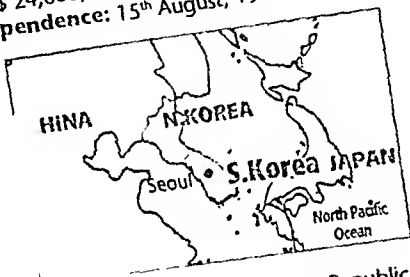
Government of Kenya, P.O. Box 10001, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 254-21-222222. Fax: 254-21-222222. E-mail: info@kenya.go.ke

The Ice Holocaust

If all the ice in the world melted, the sea would rise by about 60 metres. This would mean that many of the world's largest cities including London, New York, and Tokyo would be under water.

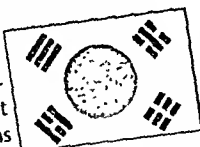
Pyongyang, Pyong-yang, DPR Korea
Tel: 00-850-2-3817274, 3817215;
00-850-2-3817619.

91. Korea (South)
Republic of Korea) Taehan Min'guk
Capital: Seoul; **Other Large Cities:** Pusan, Incheon; **Area:** 98,859 sq.km;
Population: 49,232,844; **Languages:** Korean; **Religions:** Christian-26.3%, Buddhist - 23.2%, Others or unknown 1.3%, none 49.3%; **Literacy:** 97.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 77.42; **p.c.i.:** \$ 24,600; **HDI rank:** 26; **Date of Independence:** 15th August, 1945.



Government Type: Republic;
President: Lee Myung-bak; **PM:** Han Seung-soo.

History: The Republic of Korea, formally proclaimed on August 15, 1948, forms the southern part of



the Korean peninsula. The period 1950-53 saw the Korean War, a tragic experience for the entire Korean people.

In 1991, the prime ministers of North and South Korea signed a declaration of non-aggression and reconciliation.

Economy: Chief crops are rice, wheat, barley, potatoes and vegetables. Fish is both an export item and a source of food. There are substantial coal deposits. Other minerals include iron, tungsten, graphite and fluorite. Has made big leaps in industry - textiles, electronics, steel, petrochemicals, ship and motor vehicles. Korean construction businesses are the most prolific in the world, and the nation ranks second in ship building, receiving orders amounting to 9.75 million gross tons (GT) for 208 ships in 2002.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 9, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri Extn., New Delhi - 110 021
Tel: 26885412/19, 26885374-76; Fax: 26884840.

E-mail: india@mofat.go.kr
Indian Mission in Korea (Republic of India): Embassy of India, 37-3, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-ku, C.P.O. Box 3466
Seoul. Tel: 00-82-2-798 4257/7984268
Fax: 00-82-2-7969534.

92. Kuwait
(State of Kuwait) Dowlat al-Kuwait
Capital: Kuwait City; **Other Large Cities:** Hawalli, as-Salimiya; **Area:** 17,818 sq.km; **Population:** 2,596,799; **Languages:** Arabic and English; **Religion:** Islam; **Literacy:** 93.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 77.53; **p.c.i.:** \$55,300; **HDI rank:** 33; **Date of Independence:** 19th June 1961

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **President:** Amir Sabah Ahmed al-Jabir al-Sabah; **PM:** Nayef bin Hammed al-Ahmad al Sabah.

History: Kuwait, a small Arab country, was founded in 1713.

The Longest Cable-stayed Bridge

The world's longest cable-stayed bridge, which is 1088 m., officially opened in eastern China in June 2008. It links the two banks of the Yangtze river.

gyzstan is situated on the Tien-shan mountains.

Economy: Agriculture: Kyrgyzstan is famous for its livestock breeding. Bee-keeping is well-developed. Products: Grain, cotton, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, meat, milk, eggs, wool, tobacco.

Industry: Sugar, food, cotton, wool, tanning, flour mills, tobacco, timber, textile, engineering, metallurgy, oil and mining.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic, C-93, Anand Niketan, New Delhi-110021; Tel: 24108008; Fax: 24108009.

E-mail: kyrgyzembassy@yandex.ru

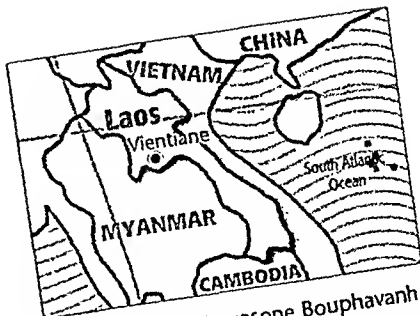
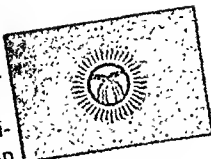
Indian Mission in Kyrgyzstan: Embassy of India, 164-A, Chui (Prospect), Bishkek-720001, Kyrgyzstan. Tel: 00-996-312-210863; Fax: 00-996-312-660708, 210849

E-mail: indembas@infotel.kg

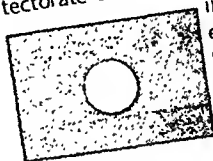
(Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Sathala-nalat Paxathipatai Paxaxon Lao

Capital: Vientiane; **Other Large Cities:** Savannakhet, Pakse; **Area:** 236,800 sq.km; **Population:** 6,677,534; **Languages:** Lao, Tribal, English, French; **Religions:** Buddhist-65%, animist 32.9%, Christian-1.3% unspecified-0.8%; **Literacy:** 68.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 56.29; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,900; **HDI rank:** 130; **Date of Independence:** 19th July, 1949.

Government Type: Communist State; **President:** Lt.Gen. Choummali



Saignason; **PM:** Bouasone Bouphavanh
History: Laos-Lao People's Democratic Republic - occupies a strategic position in south east Asia. A French protectorate since 1893, Laos became an independent sovereign state within the French Union in 1949. Conflict among neutralist communist and conservative factions created a chaotic political situation.



In the 1980s, Vietnamese aid - military and financial - was the chief support. Since 1988, investment from Thailand and USA has been substantial. In 1997, Laos was admitted to ASEAN.

Economy: The chief products are maize, tobacco, cotton. Major export products: Tin, timber, textiles.

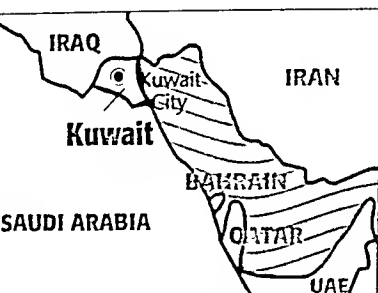
Mission in India: Embassy Lao P.D.R., A 104/7, Parmanand Maharani Bagh, New Delhi-110002. Tel: 4132 7352; Fax: 4132 7353.

E-mail: laoemb_hotmail.com

Indian Mission in Lao P.D.R. Embassy of India, Rue That Luang, No. 225, Vientiane, Laos PDR. Tel: 856-21-413802, 413804, 413805

400 Years Without Rain

Some parts of the Atacama Desert in Chile, the driest spot on earth, went without rain for 400 years, from 1570 to 1971.



on the north western coast of the Persian Gulf between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. There are 9 islands off the coast of Kuwait. Rate of growth of population is 1.33%. More than 125 nationalities live in Kuwait.

One of the richest oil nations of the world, Kuwait was traditionally under the rule of the Al-Sabah dynasty founded in 1756. In 1961, when Kuwait achieved full independence, Iraq claimed the territory as part of Iraq. Finally in August 1990 Iraq led by Saddam Hussein occupied Kuwait until it was expelled by a US-led coalition in Operation Desert Storm.

Economy: Kuwait is a small, relatively open economy with proved crude oil reserves of about 104 billion barrels – 10% of world reserves. Petroleum accounts for nearly half of GDP, 95% of export revenue, and 80% of government income. Kuwait's climate limits agricultural development. Consequently with the exception of fish, it depends almost wholly on food imports. Other products: fertilisers, chemicals, building materials,

shrimp. Only one percent land is cultivated.

Mission in India: Embassy of the State of Kuwait, 5-A, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021. Tel: 24100791; Fax: 26873516

Indian Mission in Kuwait: Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, P.O. Box.No. 1450-Safat, 13015-Safat, Kuwait. Tel: 00-965-2530600, 2540612/13; Fax: 00-965-2525811, 2571192.

E-mail: contact@indembkwt.org

Website: www.indembkwt.org

33.33/375500

(Republic of Kyrgyzstan)

Kyrgyz Respubli-kasy

Capital: Bishkek; **Area:** 198,500 sq.km; **Population:** 5,356,869; **Languages:** Kirghyz, Russian; **Religions:** Muslim-75%, Russian Orthodox-20%, others-5%; **Literacy:** 98.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 69.12; **p.c.i:** \$2,000; **HDI rank:** 116; **Date of Independence:** 31st August, 1991.

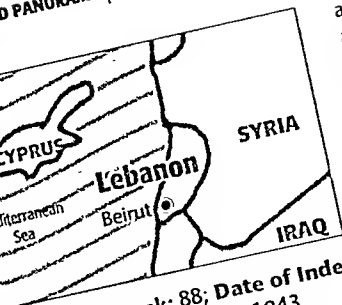
Government Type: Republic; **President:** Kurmanbek Bakiyev; **PM:** Igor Chudinov.

History: A former Soviet Republic,



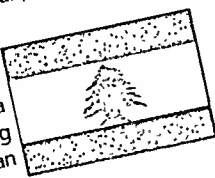
Water Drench Monday:

In Hungary, Easter Monday is sometimes called *Water Drench*. Men splash their girlfriends with water. The girls give the men colored Easter eggs.



Population: 4,100,000; HDI rank: 88; Date of Independence: 22nd November, 1943.
Government Type: Republic; **President:** Michel Suleiman; **PM:** Fuad Siniora.

History: The Republic of Lebanon occupies a strip of land along the Mediterranean coast between Syria and Israel.



According to constitutional conventions, the Maronite Christians and Sunni Muslims shared power. However, because of the 16-year-old civil war between the Christians (30%) and Muslims (70%) there has been no stable administration. Terrorist bombings were common in 1983; so was kidnapping of foreign nationals by Islamic militants in the 1980s.

In October 1990, Christian army led by Gen. Michel Aoun was defeated by the Syrian-backed militia supporting president Elias Hrawi, who was installed in power by all Arab consensus. In the civil war, above 125,000 people are feared dead. A Syria-Lebanon treaty of 1991 recognised Lebanon as a separate independent state.

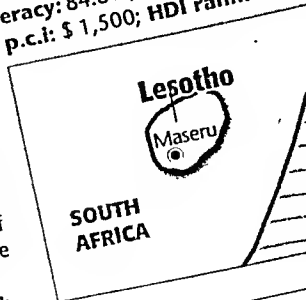
Syria, which has 30,000 troops in Lebanon, dominates this country militarily and politically. Israeli troops in southern Lebanon began evacuating outposts there in May, 2000.

Economy: Primarily an agricultural country, Lebanon produces olive oil, grain and fruits. The chief industries are oil refining, food processing, textiles, chemicals and cement. Tourism used to be a valuable source of income.

Mission in India: Embassy of Lebanon, H-1, Anand Niketan, New Delhi 110021. Tel: 24110919 & 24111415, Telefax: 24110818.

E-mail: lebemb@bol.net.in
Indian Mission in Lebanon: Embassy of India, 31, Kantari Street, Sahmarani Building, P.O. Box No. 113-5250 (Hamra) and 11-1764, Beirut, Lebanon. Tel: 00-961-1-373539, 372619; Fax: 00-961-1-373538.
 E-mail: indermbei@dm.net.lb

974 Lesotho
 (Kingdom of Lesotho)
Capital: Maseru; **Area:** 30,355 sq km; **Population:** 2,128,180; **Language:** English and Sesotho; **Religions:** Christian-80%, indigenous beliefs-20%; **Life Expectancy:** 54.8%; **Life Expectancy at p.c.i.:** \$ 1,500; **HDI rank:** 138; 1999



The Longest Border
 The world's longest continuous border is the one between the USA and Mexico.

Fax: 00-856-21-412768. E-mail: indi-aemb@laotel.com

93. Latvia

(Republic of Latvia) Latvijas Republika

Capital: Riga; **Other Large Cities:** Daugavpils, Liepaja; **Area:** 63,700 sq. km; **Population:** 2,245,423; **Languages:** Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian; **Religions:** Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox; **Literacy:** 99.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 71.88; **p.c.i:** \$ 17,700; **HDI rank:** 45; **Date of Independence:** 21st August, 1991.



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** Valdis Zatlers; **PM:** Ivars Godmanis.

History: Latvia has the Baltic sea on the north and west. Neighbours are Estonia, Lithuania, Byelorussia and Russia. Latvia seceded from Soviet Union and attained independence in August, 1991, after having attempted to establish independence in 1990.

Latvia continues a pro-western foreign policy; It was largely cut off from the western world during 50 years of Soviet rule.

In June '99, Mrs. Vaira was elected President, the first democratically elected woman President of a central or east European country.

Economy: Urbanisation has changed the face of this predominantly agricultural country. Crops: oats, barley, rye, potatoes, flax, sugarbeet, meat, milk and eggs. Cattle breeding and dairy farming are chief occupations. Natural resources: peat, briquettes and gypsum. Industry: Electric railway passenger cars and long-distance telephone exchanges (the main producer of these in former Soviet Union), paper and woollen goods, sawn timber, mineral fertilisers, hosiery, garments, leather footwear, chemical fibre, buses and radio receivers.

Mission In India: Hon. Consulate General of Republic of Latvia, 114, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110 003; Telefax: 011-43600600.

93. Lebanon

(Republic of Lebanon)
al-jumhuriya al-Lubnaniya

Capital: Beirut; **Other Large Cities:** Sidon, Tyre; **Area:** 10,400 sq.km; **Population:** 3,971,941; **Languages:** Arabic, French & English; **Religions:** Muslim-59.7% (including Shi'a, Sunni, Druze, Isma'ili, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian-39% (including Orthodox Christian, Catholic, Protestant), Jewish; **Literacy:** 87.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.41; **p.c.i:**

A Female General

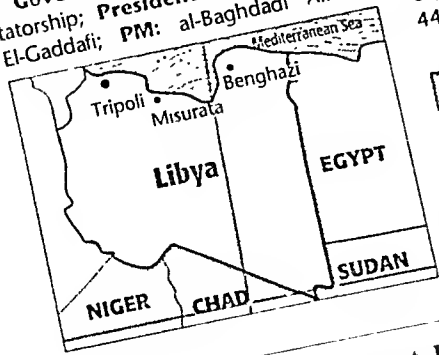
Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody is to become the first woman to attain the rank of a full General in US history. President nominated her head of the Army Material Command in June, 08.

female head of state.
 7, Charles Taylor, a warlord
 ed a civil war eight years ago
 ator Samuel Doe, won 75%
 esidential vote, and came to
 edging to build a new country
 ogising for the past bloodshed
 ence.

ion in India: Honorary Consul-
 neral. Mohan House, Zamrudpur
 nity Centre, Kailash Colony Extn.
 Delhi-110 048. Tel: 264333135;
 26460191

Libya
 Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jama-
 riya) al-Jamahiriya al-Arabiya al-Libya
 al-Shabiya al-Ishtirakiya

Capital: Tripoli; **Other Large Cities:**
 Benghazi, Misurata; **Area:** 1,759,540
 sq. km; **Population:** 6,173,579; **Land-**
quages: Arabic; **Religions:** Sunni Mus-
 m-97%; **Literacy:** 82.6%; **Life Ex-**
pectancy: 77.07; **p.c.i:** \$ 13,100; **HDI**
rank: 56; **Date of Independence:**
 24th December, 1951.
Government Type: Military Dic-
 tatorship; **President:** Col. Muammar
 El-Gaddafi; **PM:** al-Baghdadi Ali al-



Mahmudi.

History: An Arab state on the Medi-
 terranean coast of North Africa, Libya
 changed its name to 'The Socialist
 People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya' in
 1977. 'Jamahiriya'
 means 'State of the
 masses'.



Formerly an Italian colony, Libya be-
 came an independent state in 1951. The
 king was deposed in 1969.

Economy: The main agricultural
 products are wheat, barley, dates, ol-
 ives, almond and citrus fruits. Fishing,
 tobacco processing, dyeing and weav-
 ing, handicrafts and petroleum are the
 important industries. Oil was discovered
 in 1957 and today Libya is one of th
 leading producers of oil.

Mission in India: People's Bureau of
 the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab
 Jamahiriya, 22, Golf Links, New Delhi
 - 110003. Tel: 24697717, 24697771;
 Telefax: 24633005.
 E-mail:libya_bu_ind@yahoo.com

Indian Mission in Libya: Embass
 of India, 16/18, Shara Mamoud Sha
 tout, Garden City, P.O. Box 3150, Tri
 oli, Libya. Tel: 00-218-21-4441835-
 4447899; Fax: 00-218-21-3337560.
 E-mail:indembri@hotmail.com

Liechtenstein
 (Principality of Liechtenstein
 Furstentum Liechtenstein
Capital: Vaduz; **Other Large**
Sachaan; **Area:** 160 sq.km; **Pop**
 34,498; **Languages:** German; R
 Roman Catholic-79.81%, Prote

Highest, Lowest, Coldest

Asia has the highest (Mount Everest), the lowest (the Dead Sea, the large
 Israel-Jordan border), and the coldest (Siberia) places in the world.

dependence: 4th October, 1966.

Government Type: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Letsie III; **PM:** Pakalitha Mosisili.

History: The Kingdom of Lesotho is an enclave within the Republic of South Africa. Lesotho was

British protectorate under the name Basutoland. It became independent as Lesotho on Oct.

4, 1966. King Moshoeshoe II died in a car accident in January, 1996.

Economy: The principal occupation is agriculture. Crops: maize, grains, peas, beans. Livestock-raising is important activity. Lesotho possesses water and hydro-electric resources of great potential. Livestock, diamonds, wool and mohair are the main exports. Industry: Food processing. Most of Lesotho's GNP is provided by citizens working in S. Africa.

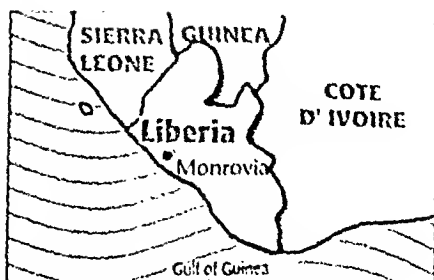


Mission in India: High commission of the Kingdom of Lesotho, B-8/19, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Tel: 4166 0713; Telefax: 2614 1636; E-mail: lesothonewdelhi@airtelbroadband.in

93. Liberia

(Republic of Liberia)

Capital: Monrovia; **Other Large Cities:** Buchanan; **Area:** 111,369 sq.km; **Population:** 3,334,587; **Languages:** English and tribal dialects; **Religions:** Indigenous beliefs-40%, Christian-40%, Muslim-20%; **Literacy:** 57.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 41.13; **p.c.i.:** \$ 500; **Date of**



Independence: 26th July, 1847.

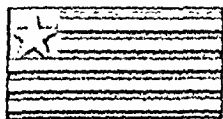
Government Type: Republic; **President & PM:** Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

History: Liberia

lies on the Atlantic coast of Africa.

It was founded in 1822 in order to

settle freed American slaves in West Africa.



Economy: About 90 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture, much of it at subsistence level. Main crops are cassava, coffee, rice, cocoa and palm oil. Iron ore and rubber are the main exports. Industry: Food processing, mining.

Civil strife that broke out in Dec. '89 tore the country apart making it the most violent country in the region. About half the population became refugees as a result of the Civil War, which claimed 150,000 lives.

In 1994, a 17-member coalition transition government was instituted. Factional fighting continued. The leaders signed about a dozen peace accords, only to resume fighting. Monrovia descended into chaos and bloodshed in 1996. Ruth Perry led a transitional government in Sept. '96, becoming modern

The Amazon is the Longest

Brazilian scientists claim that they have established that the Amazon - 6,800 km. - is the longest river in the world.

is bordered by Latvia, Belarus, Poland and Russia.

Russia withdrew its last soldier from Lithuania on Aug. 31, 1993.

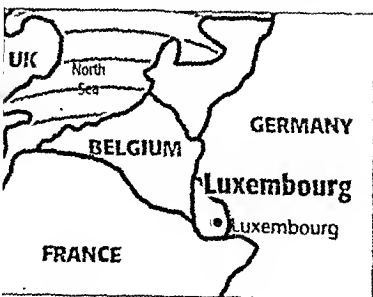
Economy: Agriculture: Grain, potatoes, sugar-beet, vegetables, meat, milk and eggs. Natural resources: Forests cover 1,554,000 hectares, 70% of which consist of conifers, especially pines. Peat reserves total 4,000 m.cu. metres. Industry: Heavy engineering, ship-building, building material industries, electronic goods, chemicals, paper, leather, sugar and garments.

Mission in India: Hon. Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania, Mohan House, Zamrudpur Community Centre, Kailash Colony Extn., New Delhi-110 048. Tel: 26433135; Fax: 26460191.



(Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)
Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

Capital: Luxembourg; **Other Large Cities:** Petange, Sanem; **Area:** 2586 sq. km.; **Population:** 486,006; **Languages:** French, German, English and Luxembourgish; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-



87%, Protestants, Jews and Muslims-13%; **Literacy:** 100%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.18; **p.c.i:** \$80,800; **HDI rank:** 18; **Date of Independence:** 1839.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** Grand Duke Henri; **Head of Govt.:** Jean-Claude Juncker.

History: Luxembourg is a small state lying in between Germany, Belgium and France. It is a Grand Duchy.

Its independence was confirmed by the Treaty of London in 1867. Luxembourg is a member of the European Union.

Economy: A member of the European Economic Community, the Benelux, the European Steel and Coal Community and the Euratom, Luxembourg is a highly industrialised state. Its iron deposits form the basis of a big steel industry, which accounts for 70 per cent of the country's exports. Other industries: Chemicals, beer, tires, tobacco, metal products, cement. Agriculture occupies only 10 per cent of the population. Crops: Corn, wine and dairy products.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, 730, Gaudipur Road, Branch Post Office Gaudipur, New Delhi-110030. Tel: 26801954 Fax: 26801971.

E-mail: paulsteinmetz@internet.lu

Indian Mission in Luxembourg
Honorary Consulate General of India
"Cabinet d'Avocats" Jim Penning, 31, Grand-Rue, B.P. 282, L-2012, Luxembourg.

Helsinki from a Tribe

The Swedes named the capital of Finland 'Helsingfors', from the name of the tribe Helsingi and 'fors' (waterfall). Helsinki is the Finnish version of 'Helsingfors'.



unknown-10.6%, others-6.2%; Literacy: 100%; Life Expectancy: 79.95; p.c.i: \$ 25,000; Date of Independence: 23rd January, 1719.

Government Type: Hereditary Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** Prince Hans Adam II; **PM:** Ottmar Hasler.

History: Liechtenstein is a small state on the upper Rhine, between Austria and Switzerland. It measures 24 km from north to south and 9 km from east to west.



Foreign workers comprise a third of the population. Many international corporations have headquarters in Liechtenstein.

The country has remained neutral and undamaged in all European wars since 1868, when the army was abolished. In 1984, male voters granted women the right to vote.

Economy: The economy is mainly industrial. Cattle-rearing is highly developed. The country's farming population has gone down from 70% to 2%

in about 60 years. Chief industries are machines and tools, textiles, foodstuffs, leather-ware, chemicals, furniture and ceramics.

LITHUANIA

(Republic of Lithuania)

Lietuvos Respublika

Capital: Vilnius (Vilna); **Other Large Cities:** Kaunas, Klaipeda; **Area:** 65,200 sq.km; **Population:** 3,565,205; **Languages:** Lithuanian; **Religions:** Roman Catholic (primarily), Lutheran, Russian Orthodox, Protestant, Evangelical Christian Baptist, Muslim, Jewish; **Literacy:** 99.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 74.67; **p.c.i:** \$ 16,700; **HDI rank:** 43; **Date of Independence:** 11th March, 1990.



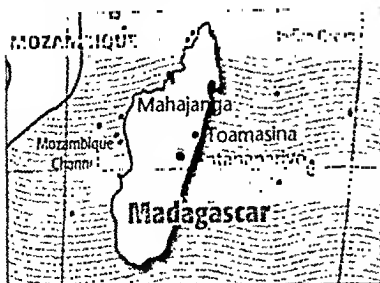
Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Valdas Adamkus; **PM:** Gediminas Kirkilas.

History: In March 1990, Lithuania formally declared its independence but USSR defeated it by cutting off supplies and by other manoeuvres.



Metal Theft and Diplomatic Spat

A short-lived diplomatic spat between Russia and the Czech Republic was caused by a theft. Forty-eight bronze reliefs from the Red Army tombstones at a Prague cemetery disappeared in July. A number of thefts of metal in the form of wires, cables and manhole covers have been reported in Czech Republic.



History: Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, lies in the Indian Ocean, off the south-east coast of Africa. It was discovered in 1500 by the Portuguese Diego Diaz; became a French colony in 1896, and an Overseas Territory in 1946. In 1958, it was proclaimed the autonomous Malagasy Republic within the French Community.

Economy: The economy is essentially agricultural. Rice is the staple food and coffee the chief export (45%). Cassava, fruits, tobacco, cloves and vanilla are also cultivated. Large herds of cattle are raised. Mineral deposits include graphite, mica, nickel and copper. World Bank reckons that half the population is malnourished. Industry: Food processing, textiles.

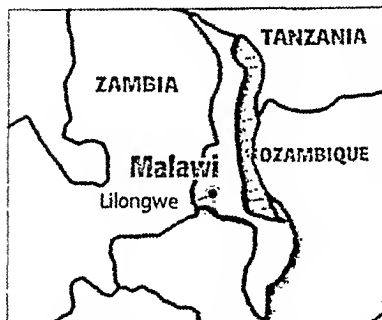
Indian Mission in Madagascar: Embassy of India, 4, Lalana Rajaonson Emile, Tsaralalanaa, Post Box No. 1787, Antananarivo, Madagascar. Tel: 00-261-20-2233790, 2262729; Fax: 00-261-20-233790, 222729.

E-mail: indembmd@bow.dts.mg

103 Malawi

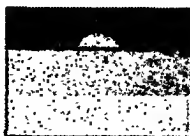
(Republic of Malawi)

Capital: Lilongwe; **Other Large Cities:** Blantyre, Mzuzu; **Area:** 118,784 sq.km; **Population:** 13,931,831; **Languages:** English, Chichewa, Lomwe, Yao; **Religions:** Christian-79.9%, Muslim-12.8%, Other-3% none-4.3%; **Literacy:** 62.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 43.45; **p.c.i:** \$ 800; **HDI rank:** 164; **Date of Independence:** 6th July, 1964.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt. (President):** Bingu wa Mutharika.

History: Malawi in south-east Africa is bounded by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. Lake Malawi, formerly Lake Nyasa, the third largest lake in Africa, lies on its eastern side. This land of lakes and mountains has infinite beauty and is considered a tourists' paradise. Malawi, formerly the British protectorate Nyasaland, (until 1907 British Central Af-



The Rapidly Aging Chinese

China's one-child policy has given her an annual population growth less than 1%. Men outnumber women 1.2 to 1. The population is rapidly aging.

bourg. Tel: 00-352-473886; Fax: 00-352-222584.

100. Macedonia

(Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) Republika Makedonija

Capital: Skopje; Other Large Cities: Bitola, Tetovo; Area: 25,713 sq. km.; Population: 2,061,315; Languages: Macedonian; Religions: Macedonian Orthodox-64.7%, other Christian-0.37%, Muslim-33.3%, others-1.63%; Literacy: 96.1%; Life Expectancy: 74.45; p.c.i: \$ 8,400; HDI rank: 69; Date of Independence: 8th September, 1991.

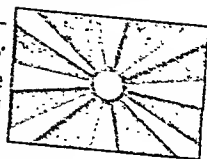


Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Branko Crvenkovski; **PM:** Nikola Gruevski.

Ethnic breakdown: Macedonians - 55%; Albanians-22%; others (including Gypsies) - 13%. A third of the population is believed to be Muslim and the rest Orthodox Christians.

History: Former Yugoslavia's poorest republic, Macedonia is land-locked and is bounded by Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia. On September 8, 1991 it voted to declare independence but EC and US refused to give recognition owing to Greek objections to its use

of the name Macedonia. Greeks say Macedonia's name implies territorial claims on the northern Greek province



of Macedonia. Macedonia has adamantly opposed a name change. Claims to the historical Macedonian territory have long been a source of contention with Bulgaria and Greece.

Macedonia became the 181st member of the UN on April 8, 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia'. Yugoslavia and Macedonia established diplomatic ties in April, 1996.

Macedonia's resources were under tremendous strain in 1999 on account of the flow of Kosovan refugees.

Economy: Agricultural products: Wheat, maize, cotton, timber, livestock. Industry: Electricity, lignite, steel, cement.

101. Madagascar

(Democratic Republic of Madagascar) Repoblika Demokratika Malagasy

Capital: Antananarivo; **Other Large Cities:** Toamasina, Mahajanga; **Area:** 587,341 sq.km; **Population:** 20,042,551; **Languages:** Malagasy and French; **Religions:** indigenous beliefs-52%, Christian-41% and Muslim-7%; **Literacy:** 68.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 62.52; **p.c.i:** \$ 1000; **HDI rank:** 143; **Date of Independence:** 26th June, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Marc Ravalomanana; **PM:** Charles Rabemananjara.

Vitamin C for Cancer

A study by researchers at the US National Institutes of Health say be useful to treat cancer - an idea advanced in the 1970s by Nobel laureate.

the processing of agricultural products from estates (eg. rubber, palm oil). industrialisation has been speeded up with foreign investment. P.M. Dr.Mahathir is the chief architect of the country's privatisation programme. Service contributes 48% of GDP.

'Peninsular Malaysia' comprises the 11 States of Johor, Pahang, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, Perak, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Penang and Melaka.

Mission in India: High Commission of Malaysia, 50-M, Satya Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26111291-93 & 26111297; Fax: 91-11-26881538.

E-mail: maldelhi@kln.gov.my

Indian Mission in Malaysia: High Commission of India, No.2, Jalan Taman Duta, Off Jalan Duta, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, (or) P.O. Box No. 10059 G.P.O., 50704, Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 00-603-20933510; Fax: 00-603-20933507, 20925826; E-mail: hc.kl@streamyx.com



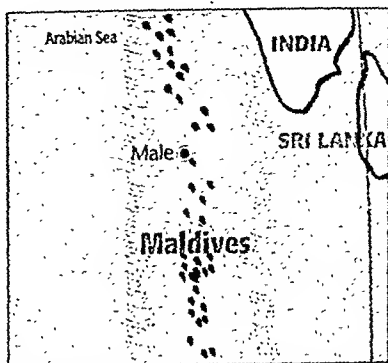
(Republic of the Maldives)

Divedhi Raajjeyge Jumburiya

Capital: Male; **Area:** 298sq.km; **Population:** 379,174; **Languages:** Divehi (Sinhalese dialect); **Religions:** Sunny Muslim; **Literacy:** 96.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 65.12; **p.c.i:** \$3,900; **HDI rank:** 100; **Date of Independence:** 26th July, 1965.

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

The Republic of Maldives lying about 675 km south-west of Sri Lanka, consists of more than 1,200 small coral islands (199 inhabited), grouped in 19 atolls, in the Indian Ocean.



History: The Maldives was long a sultanate, first under Dutch and then under



British protection. It became a republic in 1968, three years after independence. Since 1978, Presi-

dent Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has dominated the island's political scene.

Government: Legislative power is held by the unicameral Citizens' Council (Majilis), with 48 members. The country has 20 administrative districts. Maldives is divided into the capital and 19 other administrative districts, each under an appointed governor (verin) assisted by local chiefs (katheebum), who are also appointed.

Economy: Most of the country's population live on tiny coral islands in scattered atolls. These islanders are generally outside a money economy, subsisting by fishing and collecting coconuts. Arable land is minimal. Virtually all the principal staple foods have to be imported.

The islands are covered with coconut palms and yield millet, cassava, yams,

Immigrants to Russia

12.1 million immigrants, mostly from the former Soviet states, came to Russia in 2005, making it the second most attractive country for immigrants after the U.S.

rica) became independent in 1964 and a republic in 1966.

Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda's (President since 1971) autocratic system was rejected by Malawians in 1994. President Muluzi was re-elected for a final five-year term in June, '99.

Economy: Poor in resources, Malawi's agriculture is still at subsistence level. Maize is the main food crop. The chief cash crops are tea, tobacco, sugar and cotton. Industry: Textiles, sugar and cement.

Mission in India: High Commission of the Republic of Malawi, F-63, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 011-4607 8800. Fax: 011-4607 8810.

E-mail: malawiindia@airtelbroadband.in

106. Malaysia

Capital: Kuala Lumpur; **Other Large Cities:** Pinang, Ipoh; **Area:** 330,434 sq.km; **Population:** 25,274,133; **Languages:** Malay, English, Chinese, Tamil; **Religions:** Muslim-60.4%, Buddhist-19.2% Christian-9.1% Hindu-6.3% Confusionism Taoism, other traditional Chinese religious 2.6% other or unknown 1.5%, none -0.8%; **Literacy:** 88.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.03; **p.c.i:**



\$ 14,400; **HDI rank:** 63; **Date of Independence:** 31st August, 1957.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Supreme Head of State:** Paramount Ruler Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin; **PM:** Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi

Malaysia, at the southern end of the Malay Peninsula in south-east Asia, is a federation of 13 states comprising Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melakaa, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor and Terengganu.

History: In 1948, Malaysia negotiated independence from UK under the leadership of Tunku Abdul Rahman, who became the first Prime Minister. On September 16, 1963, Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah joined the Federation to form Malaysia. But



on August 9, 1965, Singapore withdrew from that Federation and became an independent republic.

Economy: Natural resources are abundant. Malaysia is one of the world's largest producers of rubber, tin and palm oil. Malaysia is also the world's leading exporter of pepper and timber. Other crops are rice, coconut, vegetables, pineapples, coffee, tea, cocoa, etc.

Iron ore, gold, ilmenite and bauxite are the major mineral resources. The petroleum industry in Malaysia is becoming significantly important to the economy of the nation. Leading industries are food products, tobacco, wood products, electrical goods, textiles, chemical products, construction goods, non-metallic products, transport equipment and

Currency Notes in Carts

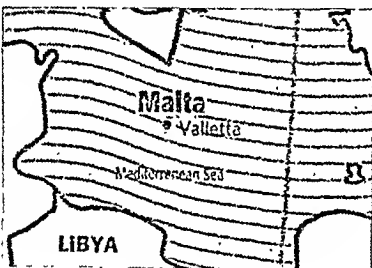
In 1923 Germany, prices quadrupled every month. Push carts were needed to carry currency notes to the shops.

Livestock-raising is important and the processing of hides and skins remains the chief industry. There is extensive river-fishing and good export trade in dried and smoked fish.

109: Malta

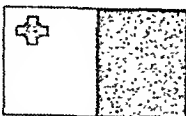
(Republika Ta' Malta)

Capital: Valletta; **Other Large Cities:** Birkirkara, Harum and Sliemna; **Area:** 316 sq. km; **Population:** 403,532; **Languages:** Maltese and English; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-98%; **Literacy:** 92.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.30; **p.c.i.:** \$ 23,200; **HDI rank:** 34; **Date of Independence:** 21st September, 1964.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Eddie Fenech Adami; **PM:** Lawrence Gonzi.

History: Malta is an island in the central Mediterranean Sea, 95 km from Sicily and about 290 km from the African coast. This state also includes the adjoining islands



of Gozo and Comino. Malta became independent in 1964 and a republic in 1974. Malta joined the European Union

on May 1, 2004.

Economy: The rocky country has no natural resources. Textiles, footwear, rubber products and plastics are exported. Ship repair and ship building are major economic activities. Agricultural products include wheat, barley, citrus, onions, potatoes and tomatoes. Tourism, however, remains the island's major industry.

Mission in India: High Commission of Malta, n-60, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110 017. Tel: 2649 4961-5; Fax: 2649 4966.

E-mail: maltahighcommission.newdelhi@gov.mt

Indian Mission in Malta: High Commission of India, Regional Road, St. Julianas, SGN 02, Malta. Tel: 00-356-344302/03; Fax: 00-356-344259.

E-mail: hcimalta@mail.link.net.mt

110: Marshall Islands

(Republic of the Marshall Islands)

Capital: Dalap-Uliga-Darrit (on Majuro atoll); **Area:** 181 sq.km; **Population:** 63,174; **Languages:** Marshallese, English, other indigenous languages and Japanese; **Religions:** Christian (Mostly Protestant); **Literacy:** 93.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.90; **p.c.i.:** \$ 2,900; **Date of Independence:** 21st October, 1986.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Litokwa Tomeing.

History: The Republic of Marshall Islands consists of two island/atoll chains, in the Pacific Ocean, the Ratak (sunrise) Chain and the Ralik (sunset) Chain, totalling 31 atolls. Each atoll is a cluster of several small islands circling a lagoon.

Untapped Oil Reserves

Cambodia is said to be the only country in the world that has oil and gas reserves that are still untapped, as well as land available for agriculture.

melons and other tropical fruit as well as coconut produce. The main industries are fishing, tourism, shipping, reedware, copper-work, coconut processing and garment manufacturing. Tourism accounts for 28% of GDP and more than 40% of foreign exchange receipts. Bonito (Maldivian fish) is the main export commodity and source of foreign exchange after tourism. White sandy beaches and multi-coloured coral formations are chief tourist attractions.

Mission in India: High Commission of Maldives, B-2, Anand Niketan, New Delhi-110021; Tel: 41435701-08; Fax: 41435709; E-mail: admin@maldiveshigh-com.co.in

Indian Mission in Maldives: High Commission of India, Athireege Aage, Ameeru Ahmed Magu, Henvairu, Male, Republic of Maldives. Tel: 00-960-323014/16; Fax: 00-960-324778.

E-mail: hcmale@hicomindia.com.my

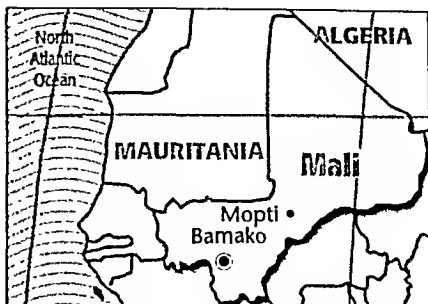
103-MALI

(Republic of Mali) Republique du Mali

Capital: Bamako; **Other Large Cities:** Segou, Mopti; **Area:** 1,240,192 sq.km; **Population:** 12,324,029; **Languages:** French (official), Bambara and other African languages; **Religions:** Muslim-90%, indigenous beliefs-9%, Christian-1%; **Literacy:** 46.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 49.94; **p.c.i.:** \$1,200; **HDI rank:** 173; **Date of Independence:** 22nd September, 1960.

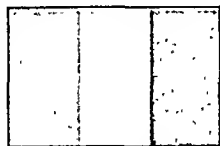
Government Type: Republic; **President:** Amadou Toumani Toure; **PM:** Modibo Sidibe.

History: Mali is a land-locked state in



West Africa. It was proclaimed an independent republic in 1960.

The area was part of the great Mali Empire, until the 15th century. In 1904, it became a French colony named French Sudan and in 1946



part of the French Union. In June 1960 it became independent and was named the Sudanese Republic. The Sudanese Republic federated with Senegal in the Mali Federation that year. Senegal then withdrew from this and the Sudanese Republic changed its name to the Republic of Mali on Sept. 22, 1960. Amadou Toumani Traore was in power from 1968 to 1991.

Agreements were signed with Tuareg insurgents in the north in '91, '92 and '94. A special administration for the Tuareg north was provided in 1992.

In Jan. '99, ex-President Traore was condemned to death for economic crimes.

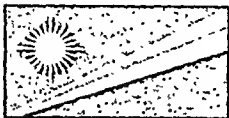
Economy: The country is poor in natural resources. Only about 20 per cent of the land is cultivable. The main crops are rice, millet, groundnuts and cotton.

Global 200 List

The world's best corporate reputations' list is topped by Toyota, the Japanese auto-maker, which is followed by Google, (USA), Ikea (Sweden), Ferrero (Italy), Johnson & Johnson (USA) and India's Tata group.



Kwajalein is the largest of the islets, which number about a hundred. The capital Majuro is about 3200 kms south-west of Honolulu. About 92% of the population are Marshallese, a Micronesian people.



Marshall Islands was a Trusteeship territory of the United States until Oct. 1986. The Islands became a full U.N. member state in Sept., 1991. The USA controls defence policy and provides financial support. Kwajalein, one of the main atolls in the western chain, is a U.S. missile-testing range and air field.

Economy: Agriculture and tourism are mainstays. Crops: Coconuts, tomatoes, melons and bread fruit. Minerals: Phosphate deposits are mined on Ailinglaplap atoll.

MAURITANIA

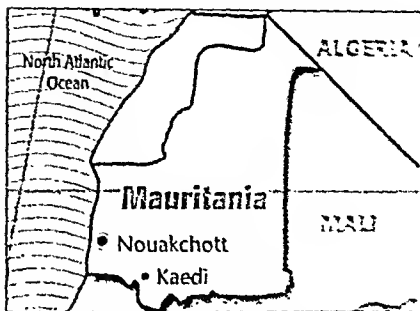
(Islamic Republic of Mauritania)

Republi-que Islamique de Mauritanie

Capital: Nouakchott; **Other Large Cities:** Nouadhibou, Kaedi; **Area:** 1,030,700 sq.km; **Population:** 3,364,940; **Languages:** Arabic, French and Hassanya Arabic, Wolof, Pulaar, and Soninke; **Reli-**

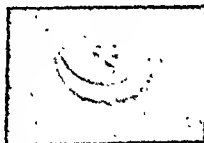
gions: Muslim-100%; **Literacy:** 51.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 53.91; **p.c.i:** \$1,800; **HDI rank:** 137; **Date of Independence:** 28th November, 1960.

Government Type: Islamic Republic



President: Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdellahi; **PM:** Yahya Ould Ahmed El Waghef.

History: The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is on the Atlantic coast of the West African bulge.



This former French overseas territory became autonomous in 1958 and fully independent on Nov. 28, 1960. Opposition parties were legalised and a new constitution approved in 1991.

Mauritania signed a peace treaty with the Polisario Front in 1980, and renounced sovereignty over its share of Western Sahara.

Economy: As much as 47% of the total area of the country is desert. The population is traditionally nomadic, rearing cattle and sheep. Main crops: dates, grain. Fishing is important. Deposits of iron and copper are being exploited.

The West Indies

The Indies was the collective name used in the 15th c. for India, Southeast Asia and Indonesia. That is how the Caribbean Islands came to be called West Indies.

00; HDI rank: 111; Date of independence: 3rd November, 1986.

Government Type: Constitutional Government; **President:** Emanuel Mori.

History: The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), formerly known as the Caroline Islands, extends across the 300 mile-long Caroline Island archipelago in the Western Pacific. The 4 states of the FSM are Pohnpei, Kosrae, Truk and Yap. Each state consists of several islands, except for Kosrae, a single island. The islands, 607 in all, vary geologically from high, mountainous islands to low, coral atolls.

The FSM, which came into being on May 10, 1979 was a Trusteeship Territory of the United States. In November 1986 USA entered into a Compact of Free Association with it. Became a full UN member state on Sept. 17, 1991. The USA controls defence and provides financial support.

Economy: Crops: Tropical fruits, vegetables, etc. Industry: Tourism and fishing.

Mission In India: Embassy of the Federated State of Micronesia stationed at Tokyo.



(Republic of Moldova)

Republica Moldav-eneasca

Capital: Chisinau (formerly Kishinev); **Other Large Cities:** Tiraspol, Beltsy; **Area:** 33,700 sq.km.; **Population:** 4,324,450; **Languages:** Romanian,

Ukrainian; **Religions:** Eastern Orthodox-98%, Jewish 1.5%, Baptist and others-0.5%; **Literacy:** 99.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.50; **p.c.i:** \$ 2,200; **HDI rank:** 111; **Date of independence:** 27th August, 1991.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Valdimir Voronin; **PM:** Zinaida Greceanii.

History: Moldova (Moldavia until 1990) has Ukraine and Romania as neighbours.



The region was taken from Romania in 1940; the people speak Romanian. In a referendum in March, 1994, Moldovans voted to remain independent, and against any union with Romania. Moldova is a fertile black earth plain. It contained about one-fourth of the former USSR's vineyards.

In May, '97, leaders of Moldova and a break-away region Transdniestria (which approved a separatist constitution in 1995) signed an agreement to keep Moldova a single state.

Economy: Agriculture: Grain, sugar-beet, vegetables, fruits, grapes. Industry: Wine-making, tobacco, canning, wood-

Young Smokers

Most smokers in South-East Asia start tobacco consumption before the age of 18. Almost a quarter of them start using it even before they are 10.

fied 13.8%, none- 3.1%; **Literacy:** 91%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.84; **p.c.i.:** \$ 12,500; **HDI rank:** 52; **Date of Independence:** 24th September, 1821.



Government Type: Federal Republic; **President & PM:** Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa.

History: The site of advanced Amerindian civilizations, Mexico came under Spanish rule for three centuries before achieving independence early in the 19th century.



Mexico is the only Latin American country not to have a military coup in the post-war period.

Economy: Mexico is not well suited for agriculture so it is obliged to import food. The important agricultural products are maize, rice, wheat, sugar, coffee and cotton. Sea fishing is also important as an occupation. Mexico is the world's leading producer of silver, sulphur and fluorite. Other minerals include coal, zinc, lead, manganese, bauxite and uranium. In recent years, Mexico has become one of the main producers and

exporters of petroleum. Main industries: Steel, chemicals, electric goods, textiles, rubber, tourism. In the 1980's Mexico experienced a major economic crisis resulting from inflation, collapse of oil prices and severe unemployment. The devaluation of the peso in 1994 sparked an exodus of capital. A collapse of the currency was prevented by pledges of U.S aid and an austerity plan.

Mission in India: Embassy of Mexico, C-8, Anand Niketan, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 241171820-83; Fax: 91-11-24117193.

E-mail: embamexindia@airtelbroadband.in;

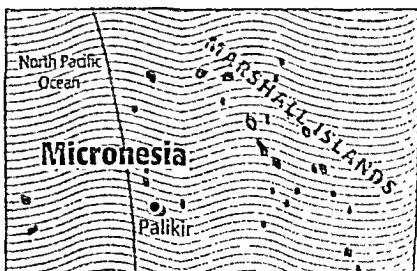
Indian Mission in Mexico: Embassy of India, Avenida Musset 325, Colonia Polanco, C.P. 11550, Mexico D.F. Tel: 00-52-55-55 311050; Fax: 00-52-55-5254 2349.

E-mail: info@indembassy.org

114. Micronesia

(Federated States of Micronesia)

Capital: Palikir; **Other Large Cities:** Weno, Tofol; **Area:** 702 sq.km.; **Population:** 107,665; **Languages:** English and local languages; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-50%, Protestant-47%; **Literacy:** 89%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.65; **p.c.i.:** \$



San Jose

The city was founded in 1736 by Spanish settlers. 'San Jose' comes from the Spanish for St. Joseph. It was made capital of Costa Rica in 1823.

ancy: 67.32; p.c.i: \$ 2,900; HDI
ank: 114; Date of Independence:
1st July, 1921.

Government Type: Parliamentary;
President: Nambaryn Enkhbayar; **PM:**
Sanjaa Bayar.

History: The
Mongolian Peo-
ple's Republic,
formerly known



as Outer Mongolia, lies in Central Asia
with Russia to the north and China to
the south, east and west. It is one of the
world's oldest countries. Much of the
Gobi desert falls within Mongolia. The
great Mongol warrior Genghis Khan
(1162-1227) founded the Mongol world
empire. It became an independent state
in 1921. Political opposition was le-
galised in 1990. In July, Communists
won the first free elections to the legisla-
ture. The constitution of 1992 abolished
the 'People's Democracy', introduced
democratic institutions and a market
economy and guaranteed freedom of
speech. The second free election in 1996
resulted in the defeat of the Communist
Party which had ruled Mongolia for over
70 years. A reformist democratic coal-
ition (with 50 seats in the 76-seat Great
Hural) came to power.

Economy: Mongolia has been
changed from a nomadic culture to one
of settled agriculture and growing indus-
tries with aid from former USSR and East
European nations. Livestock-raising is
the principal occupation and comprises
horses, oxen, sheep, goats and camels.
The herdsmen are organised in collec-
tives. State farms practise large-scale ag-
riculture (crops: grains). Minerals include

coal, flourspar, tungsten, tin and cop-
per. Industry: Food processing, textiles,
chemicals and cement.

Mongolia won admission to the World
Trade Organisation in July, 1996-the first
transition economy of the old Soviet bloc
to join the body as a new member.

Mission in India: Embassy of Mon-
golia, 34, Archbishop Makarios Marg,
New Delhi-110003. Tel: 2463 1728,
2461 7989; Fax: 91-11-24633240. E-
mail: mongemb@vsnl.net

Web: mongemb.com

Indian Mission in Mongolia: Em-
bassy of India, Zaluuchuudyn Urgan
Chuluu 10, C.P.O. Box No. 691, Ulaan-
baatar -210613, Mongolia. Tel: 00-
976-11-329522/24/28; Fax: 00-976-11-
329532.

E-mail: indembmongolia@maginet.
com



Capital: Podgorica (administrative capi-
tal); Cetinje (capital city); **Other Large
Cities:** Ulcinj, Tivat, Kolasin; **Area:**
14,026 sq.km; **Population:** 678,177;
Languages: Serbian (Ijekavian dialect
- official); **Religions:** Orthodox, Mus-
lim, Roman Catholic; **Literacy:** 97%;



A Bent Nail for Luck

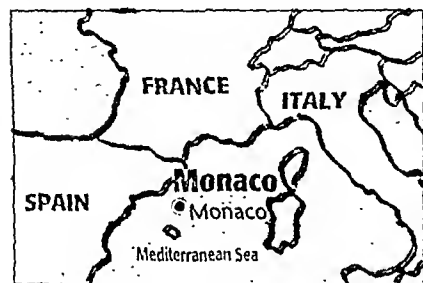
Luciano Pavarotti habitually went on stage with a bent nail, pilfered from the back-
stage scenery, in his pocket - a traditional good-luck charm for Italian singers.

working, textiles, metallurgy, dairy, TV, fridge, washing machines.

106. Monaco

(Principality of Monaco)

Capital: Monaco; **Other Large Cities:** Monte-Carlo; **Area:** 1.95 sq.km; **Population:** 32,796; **Languages:** French, Monegasque and Italian; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-90%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.96; **p.c.i:** \$ 30,000; **Date of Independence:** 1419



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** Prince Albert II; **Head of Govt:** Jean-Paul Proust.

History: Monaco is a sovereign principality on France's south-eastern Mediterranean coast. Of the resident population, 40% are French, 17% Italian and 5% British. Monaco is a member of the U.N.

Economy: The principality is a series of connected towns—Monaco-Ville, La Condamine, Fontvieille

and Monte Carlo with its casinos, opera house, grand hotels, shops and villas.

Monaco is a fashionable pleasure resort visited by as many as 1.5 million tourists every year. Its main attractions are the casinos and its international motor sports—the Monte Carlo Rally and the Monaco Grand Prix. Tourism, gambling, and tobacco monopoly are its main sources of income.

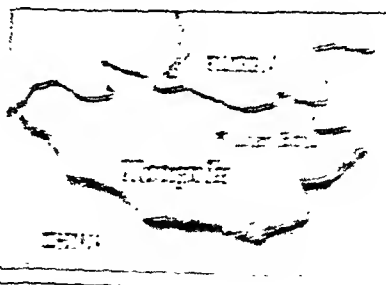
There are a number of light industries, such as chemicals, plastics and precision instruments. There were 43 knife makers in 1995. There is one policeman for every 60 residents.

Mission in India: Hon. Consul General of Monaco, DLF Centre, 5th Floor, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110 011. Tel: 5150 2149; Fax 5150 2153; e-mail: kpsindia@aol.com

107. Mongolia

(Mongolian Republic) Mongolia

Capital: Ulan Bator; **Other Large Cities:** Darhan, Erdenet; **Area:** 1,564,116 sq.km; **Population:** 2,365,000; **Languages:** Mongolian; **Religions:** Buddhism, Lamaist 50%, Shamanism and Shaman 6%, Muslim 4%, none 40%, etc.



Sentencing in Ancient Egypt

In ancient Egypt, sentencing POWs to work in mines was a form of punishment. Criminals, POWs and their families were sentenced to work in mines for the rest of their lives.

internationalised city of Tangier and most Spanish possessions were handed over to the new country that same year. Morocco virtually annexed Western Sahara during the late 1970s, but final resolution on the status of the territory remains unresolved.

Economy: Primarily an agricultural country, Morocco produces cereals, including barley, wheat, corn and fruits. Vineyards are abundant and dates form a regular crop. Livestock raising is important and fishing is well-developed. About 500,000 Moroccans rely on fishing as their occupation. The most important mineral extracted is phosphate, of which Morocco remains a world supplier. Other minerals are iron ore, coal, lead and manganese. Industry: Carpets, clothing, leather goods, mining, sugar, metallurgy, chemicals and tourism. Its foreign debt has made Morocco one of the most indebted countries in the world.

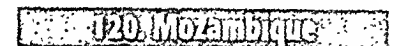
Mission In India: Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, 33 Archbishop Makarios Marg, New Delhi-110003. Tel: 24636920/21 & 24636924 (Visa); Fax: 24636925.

E-mail: embassyofmorocco@rediffmail.com

Web: www.moroccoembindia.com

Indian Mission In Morocco: Embassy of India, 13, Charia Michlifien, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco. Tel: 00-212-3-7671339, 7675974/5; Fax: 00-212-3-7671269.

E-mail: india@maghrebnet.net.ma

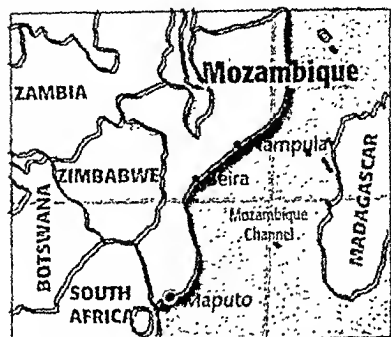


(Republic of Mozambique)

Republica de Mocambique

Capital: Maputo; **Other Large Cities:**

Beira, Nampula; **Area:** 783,030 sq.km; **Population:** 21,284,701; **Languages:** Portuguese and Bantu; **Religions:** Catholic-23.8%, Zionist Christian-17.5%, Muslim-17.8%, other-17.8%, none-23.1%; **Literacy:** 47.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 41.04; **p.c.i:** \$ 900; **HDI rank:** 172; **Date of Independence:** 25th June, 1975.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Armando Guebuza; **PM:** Luisa Diogo.

History: Mozambique was a Portuguese colony for 470 years before achieving independence in 1975. The ruling Frelimo (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) party formally abandoned Marxism in 1989. A new constitution in 1990 provided for multiparty elections and a free market economy. A UN-negotiated peace agreement between FRELIMO and rebel Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) forces ended the fighting in 1992. In December 2004, Mozambique underwent a delicate



ing independence in 1975. The ruling Frelimo (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) party formally abandoned Marxism in 1989. A new constitution in 1990 provided for multiparty elections and a free market economy. A UN-negotiated peace agreement between FRELIMO and rebel Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) forces ended the fighting in 1992. In December 2004, Mozambique underwent a delicate

Research on Belief in God

University of Oxford researchers are to spend £2 m. in a 3-year programme to determine why mankind believes in God. Faith in God is a universal human impulse found in most cultures, though it has been waning in western Europe.

Life Expectancy: 73.5; **p.c.i.:** \$ 3,800;
Date of Independence: 3rd June 2006.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Filip Vujanovic; **PM:** Milo Djukanovic.

History: Montenegro declared its independence on June 3, 2006. The country got its name (literally, "black mountain") from the dark mountain forests that cover the land. Some 60 per cent of the country is more than 1,000 metres high, with the tallest peak reaching to 2,522 metres. The mountains were a natural fortress that helped Montenegro maintain its independence until it suffered devastating losses in World War I. It became part of Serbia in 1918 and Yugoslavia in 1929.

The people of Montenegro gained greater autonomy when the name Yugoslavia was discarded in favour of a democratic and federal country named Serbia and Montenegro. On May 21, 2006, 66.6 per cent of Montenegro voted to secede from Serbia and become independent.

Economy: The economy of Montenegro is based on agriculture and animal husbandry. Important crops include cereals, tobacco, vegetables, grapes, figs and olives. The main industries are lumber milling, salt processing and tobacco processing.

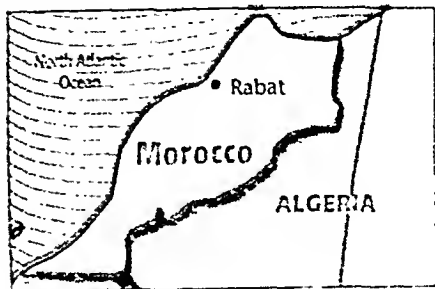


(Kingdom of Morocco)

al-Mamlaka al-Maghrebia

Capital: Rabat; **Other Large Cities:**

Fez, Marrakech; **Area:** 458,730 sq.km (excluding Western Saharan territory); **Population:** 34,343,219; **Languages:** Arabic, Berber; **Religions:** Muslim-98.7%, Christian-1.1%, Jewish-0.2%; **Literacy:** 52.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 71.52; **p.c.i.:** \$3,800; **HDI rank:** 126; **Date of Independence:** 2nd March, 1956.



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Mohammed VI; **PM:** Abbas El Fassi.

History: In AD 788, about a century after the Arab subjugation of North Africa, Morocco was ruled by successive



Moorish dynasties. In the 6th century, the Sa'adi monarchy, particularly under Ahmad Al-Mansur, repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. In 1860, Spain occupied northern Morocco and ushered in a half century of trade rivalry among European powers that saw Morocco's sovereignty steadily erode; in 1912, the French imposed a protectorate over the country. A prolonged independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956. The

The World's Largest Military

China announced a 17.6 increase in its 2008 defence budget, up to 58.8 b. The country has a 2.3 million-person military. It is the world's largest.

the army was reluctant to power. Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader and winner of the Nobel Prize, was kept under house arrest from 1989 to '95. The ruling junta was promising a new Constitution after seven years now but nothing has emerged. Suu Kyi's activities are restricted by the government. In 1987 UN bestowed the least developed country status on Burma, which was once the richest nation in SE Asia. Myanmar joined the regional group of ASEAN (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Economic Cooperation) in July 1997, which then became BIMSTEC. In 1997 ASEAN admitted Myanmar as a member.

Economy: Known as the "rice bowl of the Far East", Myanmar also grows sugarcane, peanuts, and beans. The chief minerals are petroleum, lead, tin, zinc, tungsten, copper, antimony, silver and gems. The rubies, sapphires and jade found in Myanmar are especially famous. Teakwood is exported.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Union of Myanmar, 3/50F, Nyaya Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 2467 8822, 2467 8823; Telefax: 2467 8824

E-mail: myandelhi@gmail.com
Indian Mission in Myanmar: Embassy of India, No. 545-547, Merchant Street, Post Box No. 751, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 00-95-1-240633, 243972, 282552; Fax: 00-95-1-254086/250164.

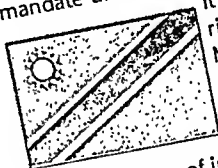
Capital: Windhoek; **Area:** 826,700

sq.km; **Population:** 2,088,667; **ages:** English, Afrikaans, German, several indigenous languages; **Religions:** Christian-80-90% (Lutheran 50% at least), Indigenous beliefs-10-20%; **Literacy:** 85%; **Life Expectancy:** 49.89; **p.c.i.:** \$5,200; **HDI rank:** 125; **Date of Independence:** 21st March, 1990.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Hifikepunye Pohamba; **PM:** Nahas Angula.

History: South Africa occupied the German colony of South-West Africa during World War I and administered it as a mandate until after World War II, when it annexed the territory.



In 1966 the Marxist South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrilla group launched a war of independence for the area that was soon named Namibia. It was not until 1988 that South Africa agreed to its administration in accordance with a UN peace plan for the entire region. Namibia has been governed by SWAPO ever since its independence in 1990.

Blessed With Rice

While 20% of Thais and 19% of Vietnamese are malnourished, the percentage in Myanmar. Per capita rice consumption per year is 20 kg. in Myanmar - the highest in the region.

transition as Joaquim Chissano stepped down after 18 years in office.

Economy: The economy is based on agriculture. The major cash crops are cashewnuts, sugar, cotton and sisal. Maize, bananas, rice, groundnuts, vegetables and coconuts are also grown. Considerable mineral resources exist although only coal, diamonds and bauxite are now exploited. Mozambique has two-thirds of the world's known reserves of tantalite and is the second largest producer of beryl. Industry: Steel, cement, engineering, textiles and petroleum products.

Missions in India: High Commission of the Republic of Mozambique, B-3/24, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057. Tel: 26156663/4; Fax: 26156665;

E-mail: hcmozind@hclinet.com

Indian Mission in Mozambique:

High Commission of India, Avineda Kenneth Kaunda No. 167, P.O. Box No. 4751, Maputo, Mozambique. Tel: 00-258-1-492437, 490717; Fax: 00-258-1-492364.

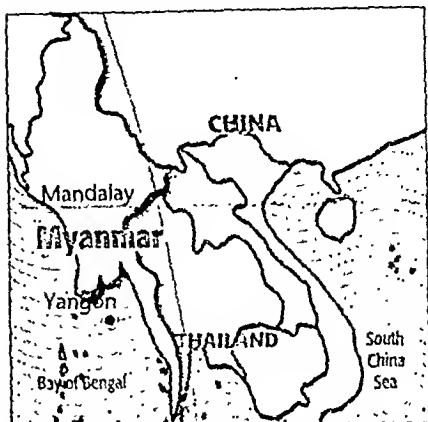
E-mail: hicomind@tvcabo.co.mz

121 Myanmar

(Union of Myanmar) Pyeidaungzu
Myanma Naingangandaw

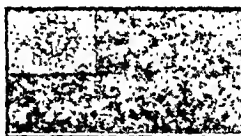
Capital: Seat of government moving to Naypyidaw, also known as Pynmana, from Rangoon (Yangon); **Other Large Cities:** Mandalay, Bassein; Area: 676,553 sq.km; **Population:** 47,758,181; **Languages:** Burmese, Karen, Shan; **Religions:** Buddhist-89%, Christian-4% (Baptist-3%, Roman Catholic-1%), Muslim-4%, animist-1%, others-2%; **Lit-**

eracy: 89.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 62.94; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,900; **HDI rank:** 132; **Date of Independence:** 4th January, 1948.



Government Type: Military Regime; **President:** Gen. Than Shwe; **Acting PM:** Gen. Thein Sain.

History: Britain conquered Burma over a period of 62 years (1824-1886) and incorporated it



into its British empire. Burma was administered as a province of India until 1937 when it became a separate, self-governing colony; independence from the Commonwealth was attained in 1948. Gen. Ne Win dominated the government from 1962 to 1988, first as a military ruler, then as self-appointed president, and later as political kingpin. The Armed Forces set up a State Law and Order Restoration council (SLORC). In June 1990, in the first free elections in 30 years, the National League for Democracy won by a c

Aid to Myanmar

As a result of the international sanctions in place since the mid - 90s, Myanmar receives only around \$3 per capita of international aid. Vietnam gets \$33, Cambodia \$47 and Laos \$63.

had one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, but depleted phosphate mines and bad investments have left it economically bereft.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate General of Nauru, S-327, Greater Kailash -1, New Delhi-110048. Tel: 26414744/26215780; Fax: 262157780. E-mail: kartarbhalla@hotmail.com



(Kingdom of Nepal) Nepal Adhirajya

Capital: Kathmandu; **Other Large Cities:** Biratnagar, Lalitpur; **Area:** 147,181 sq.km.; **Population:** 29,519,114; **Languages:** Nepali, Maithiri, Bhojpur etc.; **Religions:** Hindu-80.6%, Buddhist-10.7%, Muslim-4.2%, Kirant-3.6%, others-0.9%. **Literacy:** 48.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 60.56; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,100; **HDI rank:** 142; **Date of Independence:** 1768.



Government Type: Democratic Republic; **President:** Ram Baran Yadav; **PM:** Prachanda.

The Kingdom of Nepal (Nepal Adhirajya) is a land-locked Asian country in the Himalaya mountain range. It is bounded on the north by Tibet, on the east by Sikkim and West Bengal, on the south and

west by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

History: From 1846 to 1951 Nepal was virtually ruled by the Rana family, a member of which always held the office of prime minister, the succession being determined by special rules. The last Rana prime minister resigned in November 1951. The 15 feudal chieftainships were integrated into the kingdom on 10 April 1961.



Following pro-democracy demonstrations on 16 April 1990 King Birendra dismissed the government and proclaimed the abolition of the panchayat system of nominated councils. Reforms in 1990 established a multiparty democracy within the framework of a constitutional monarchy.

A Maoist insurgency, launched in 1996, gained momentum and threatened to bring down the regime, especially after a negotiated cease-fire between the Maoists and government forces broke down in August 2003. In 2001, the crown prince massacred ten members of the royal family, including the king and queen, and then took his own life. In October 2002, the new king dismissed the prime minister and his cabinet for "incompetence" after they dissolved the parliament and were subsequently unable to hold elections because of the ongoing insurgency. While stopping short of reestablishing parliament, the king in June 2004 reinstated the most recently elected prime minister who formed a four-party coalition government.

Falling Birthrates

Birthrate in Japan has fallen for the 27th successive year, causing government to consider encouraging foreign workers to stay on in the country long-term. The ratio of children to total population has fallen for 34 years in a row to 13.5%, a record low.

Economy: Diamonds are Namibia's most valuable economic asset followed by copper, uranium, zinc, lead, germanium and manganese. Stock-breeding is important; cattle, sheep and goats abound. Fishing is a supplementary source of food and income. Food crops include corn, millet and sorghum. Industry: Canning, textiles, leather, dairy. GDP by major sectors: agriculture: 11%, industry 28%, and services 61%.

Population growth rate is 3% per annum. The country has a wide variety of tourist attractions mainly in the form of spectacular scenery and wildlife reserves. Walvis Bay and Luderitz are the two harbours.

Mission in India: High Commission of the Republic of Namibia, E-26, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057; Tel: 26140389/0890/4772; Fax: 26146120/26155482;

E-mail: nhcdelhi@del2.vsnl.net.in
Consulate: Mumbai: Tel: 6665 7272, 6665 8282; Fax: 6665 8028,

E-mail: syamalgupta@tata.com
Indian Mission in Namibia: High Commission of India, 97, Nelson Mandela House, P.O. Box 1209, Windhoek, 9000, Namibia. Tel: 00-264-61-226037, 228433; Fax: 00-264-61-237320.

E-mail: hicomind@mweb.com.na

NAURU

(Republic of Nauru) Naoero

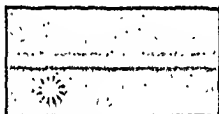
Capital: Yaren district; **Area:** 21.1 sq.km; **Population:** 13,770; **Languages:** English and Nauruan; **Religions:** Christian (two-thirds Protestant, one-third Roman

Catholic); **Life Expectancy:** 63.81; **p.c.i:** \$ 5,000; **Date of Independence:** 31st January, 1968.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Marcus Stephen.

History: Nauru, a small coral island in the central Pacific, just 42 km. south of the



equator is world's smallest republic. It is an oval-shaped coral island of approximately 20 km in length, surrounded by a reef which is exposed at low tide. It has an 18-member Parliament, elected on a 3-yearly basis.

Nauru was annexed by Germany in 1888. Nauru was occupied by Australian forces in World War I and subsequently became a League of Nations mandate. After the Second World War and a brutal occupation by Japan, Nauru became a UN trust territory. It joined UN in 1999.

Economy: About four-fifths of Nauru is phosphate-bearing rock, which accounts for 98% of its exports. It is estimated that the phosphate deposits will be exhausted by 2008.

The world's smallest democracy once

Speedier Family Baths Recommended

Japanese households have been asked to shorten their daily showers by a minute to reduce energy consumption. They are also advised to take baths in quick succession.

The king in February 2005 dissolved the government, declared a state of emergency, imprisoned party leaders and assumed power. The king's government subsequently released party leaders and officially ended the state of emergency in May 2005, but the monarch retained absolute power until April 2006. After nearly three weeks of mass protests organised by the seven-party opposition and the Maoists, the king allowed parliament to reconvene on 28 April 2006. Following the November 2006 peace accord between the government and the Maoists, an interim constitution was promulgated and the Maoists were allowed to enter parliament in mid-January 2007.

The country is administratively divided into 14 zones, subdivided into 75 districts and over 3,500 villages.

Economy: Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world with nearly half of its population living below the poverty line. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for over 80% of the population and accounting for 41% of GDP. Textile and carpet production, accounting for about 80% of foreign exchange earnings in recent years, contracted significantly in 2001 due to the world economic slump and pressures by Maoist insurgents on factory owners and workers.

Industry contributes about 22% of Nepal's GDP. Its major trading partner is India. Principal exports are food grains, jute, timber, oilseeds, ghee (clarified butter), potatoes, medicinal herbs, skins and cattle. The chief imports are textiles, cigarettes, salt, petrol and kerosene, sugar,

machinery, medicines, boots and shoes, paper, cement, iron, steel and tea.

Tourism is the second largest industry. It is being developed by the construction of new tourist centres in the Kathmandu valley. Regular air services link Kathmandu with Pokhara Lake. Major tourist attractions include Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, and the Himalaya mountain range including Mount Everest, the world's highest peak. About 30 per cent of tourists are from India.

Government has a poverty reduction scheme whereby poverty is to be brought down to 10% in the 12th plan.

In Feb. '96, India and Nepal signed two agreements including an initiative for sharing of water and electricity from the Mahakali river.

King Birendra (brother of King Gyanendra), Queen Aishwarya and six other members of the royal family were assassinated on June 1, 2001.

In January 2007, Maoist leaders entered parliament under the terms of a temporary constitution. In April, former Maoist rebels joined interim government, a movement that took them into the political mainstream.

Mission in India: Royal Nepalese Embassy, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001. Tel. 23329969, 23329218; Fax: 23326857, 23329647.

E-mail: nepembassydelhi@bol.net.in

Indian Mission in Nepal: Embassy of India, , Post Box 292, 336 Kapurdhara Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 00-977-1-4410900; Fax: 00-977-1-4428279; E-mail: pic@eoiktm.org

Dual-Mode Vehicles

A public transportation vehicle that can run on both railways and highways is being developed in Japan. It will be four times more fuel efficient than the diesel trains used now.

their chieftains entered into a compact with Britain, the Treaty of Waitangi, in which they ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria while retaining territorial rights. In the same year, the British began the first organised colonial settlement. A series of land wars between 1843 and 1872 ended with the defeat of the indigenous population. The British colony of New Zealand became an independent dominion in 1907 and supported the UK militarily in both World Wars.

Economy: The major crops are wheat, maize, oats and barley. Minerals include coal, oil and gold. Primary industries are dairying, meat and wool. Pulp and paper industry is highly developed. Iron, steel, aluminium, textiles, transport equipment are other industries.

Mission in India: High Commission for New Zealand, Sir Edmund Hillary Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 2688 3170; Fax: 2688 3165,

E-mail: nzhc@ndf.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in New Zealand: High Commission of India, 180, Molesworth Street, P.O. Box 4045, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: 00-64-4-4736390; Fax: 00-64-4-4990665.

E-mail: hicomind@xtra.co.nz

Overseas Territories

The Cook islands and Niue are self-governing territories overseas and Ross Dependency and Tokelau are territories overseas coming within New Zealand's jurisdiction.

The Cook Islands: (241 sq.km.) were placed under New Zealand administration in 1901 and they achieved self-governing

status in association with New Zealand in 1965; **Population:** 21,923.

Niue (259 sq.km.), formerly administered as part of Cook Islands, achieved self-governing status in association with New Zealand in 1974. Niue is the largest uplifted coral island in the world. **Population:** 1,444.

The Ross Dependency: (414,400 sq.km.), an Antarctic region, was placed under New Zealand administration in 1923.

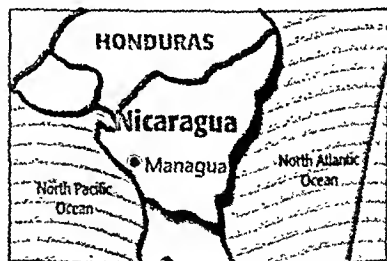
Tokelau: (10 sq.km.) was placed under New Zealand administration in 1925. **Population:** 1,433.

127. Nicaragua

(Republic of Nicaragua)

Republica de Nicaragua

Capital: Managua; **Other Large Cities:** Leon, Granada; **Area:** 130,000 sq.km; **Population:** 5,785,846; **Languages:** Spanish and English; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-72.9%, Evangelical 15.1%, Maravian 1.5%, Episcopal 0.1%, other 1.9%, none 8.5%; **Literacy:** 67.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.92; **p.c.i.:** \$ 3,200; **HDI rank:** 110; **Date of Independence:** 15th September, 1821.



Cars in China

There are 12 million privately owned cars in China. That is one-tenth of the US figure. Chinese auto sales are growing at 26 per cent a year.

E-mail: nde@minbuza.nl; Web: holland-in-india.org

Indian Mission in Netherlands:

Embassy of India, Buitenrustweg -2, 2517 KD, The Hague, Netherlands. Tel: 00-31-70-3469771; Fax: 00-31-70-3617072.

E-mail: fscultur@bart.nl

Dutch Territories

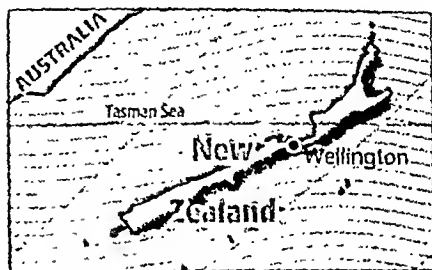
Aruba The island (Area: 193 sq.km., Population: 101,541) which lies in the southern Caribbean, formed part of the Dutch West Indies from 1828 and part of the Netherland Antilles from 1845. Achieved internal self-government in 1954. Aruba was constitutionally separated from the Netherlands Antilles from Jan.1, 1986, and full independence was promised after a 10-year period. But an agreement of 1990 deleted references to eventual independence. Capital: Oranjestad. PM: Nelson O. Oduber.

The Netherlands Antilles (Area: 800 sq.km., Population: 225,369) comprise two groups of islands in the West Indies, the Leeward group (Curacao and Bonaire) and the Windward Islands. In 1954, they became an integral part of the Netherlands but are fully autonomous in internal affairs. Capital: Willemstad; **Governor General:** Frits Goedgedrag; **PM:** Emile de Jongh-Elhage.

NEW ZEALAND

Capital: Wellington; **Other Large Cities:** Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton; **Area:** 269,057 sq.km (excluding de-

pendencies); **Population:** 4,173,460; **Languages:** English and Maori dialect; **Religions:** Anglican-14.9%, Presbyterian-10.9%, Roman Catholic-12.4%, Methodist-2.9%, Baptist-1.3%, Pentecostal-1.7%, other Christian- 9.4%, other-3.3%, Unspecified-17.2%, none-26%; **Literacy:** 78.96%; **Life Expectancy:** 80.24; **Currency:** New Zealand Dollar (\$1=1.283); **p.c.i.:** \$ 27,300; **HDI rank:** 19; **Date of Independence:** 26th September, 1907.



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II; **Gov.Gen:** Anand Satyanand; **PM:** Ms. Helen Clark.

New Zealand, lying in the South Pacific Ocean with Tasman Sea on the west, consists of two large islands, North Island and South Island and numerous small islands. British sovereignty was proclaimed in 1840, with organised settlement beginning in the same year.

History: The Polynesian Maori reached New Zealand in about A.D.800. In 1840,



Prisoners of the World

The United States has 2.3 million criminals behind bars, more than any other nation, according to the International Centre for Prison Studies at King's College London. China, which is four times more populous than US, has 1.6 m. prisoners. In US, 75 out of every 1,00,000 people are in prison. If only adults are taken, one in 10⁴ Americans is locked up.

Forced by public pressure to allow multi-party elections, which resulted in a democratic government in 1993. Political infighting brought the government to a standstill and in 1996 led to a coup by Col. Ibrahim Bare. In 1999 Bare was killed in a coup by military officers who promptly restored democracy rule and held elections that brought Mamadou Tandja to power in December of that year. Tandja was reelected in 2004.

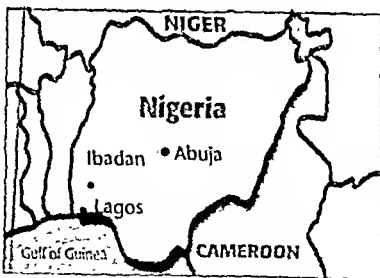
Economy: Niger is an agricultural country with very limited resources. The principal crops are millet, peanuts and cotton. Cattle-breeding is the next most important occupation of the people. Minerals: uranium, coal, iron.

Mission in India: Embassy of Niger Stationed at Moscow.



(Federal Republic of Nigeria)

Capital: Abuja; **Other Large Cities:** Lagos, Ibadan; **Area:** 923,768 sq.km; **Population:** 138,283,240; **Languages:** English, Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba; **Religions:** Muslim-50%, Christian-



40%; indigenous beliefs-10%; **Literacy:** 68%; **Life Expectancy:** 47.81; **p.c.i.:** \$ 2,200; **HDI rank:** 158; **Date of Independence:** 1st October, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Umaru Musa Yaradua.

The Federation of Nigeria on the south coast of West Africa is black Africa's most populous nation. It is a country of 250 tribal groups.

History: Nigeria became an independent state in 1960 and a republic within the Commonwealth in Oct. 1963.

Following nearly 16 years of military rule, a new constitution was adopted in 1999, and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of civilian rule since independence. General elections in April 2007 were considered significantly flawed by Nigerian and international observers but they marked the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in the country's history.

Economy: The chief agricultural products are cocoa, palm oil, palm kernels, grains, fish, cotton, rubber, peanuts and skins. Tin, lead, columbite, coal and iron ore are the chief minerals. Timber, hides and skins, cocoa and palm products are major export items. Crude oil exports have become important since 1970. Oil revenues have made possible a massive economic development programme,

600 Km to Vote

Tshewang Dena, a 65-year-old woman, trekked 600 km to cast her vote in the first elections in Bhutan in March, 2008. She took 14 days to reach the eastern district Trashiyangste from Thimphu. Her rubber slippers and walking stick helped her to reach the destination.

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt.:** Daniel Ortega Saaedra.

History: The republic of Nicaragua is located in the heart of Central America. It is the largest but most sparsely populated of the Central American nations. It became an independent state in 1838. The Somoza dynasty ruled Nicaragua from

1933 to 1979. Violent opposition to governmental manipulation and corruption spread to all classes by 1978 and resulted in a short-lived civil war that brought the Marxist Sandinista guerrillas to power in 1979.

Sandinista National Liberation Front emerged as the leading political force in the election held in 1984. Nicaraguan aid to leftist rebels in El Salvador caused the US to sponsor anti-Sandinista Contra guerrillas through much of the 1980s. Free elections in 1990, 1996 and 2001, saw the Sandinistas defeated, but voting in 2006 announced the return of former president Daniel Ortega.

Economy: Agriculture is the principal source of national income. The most important agricultural products are cotton, coffee, sugar-cane, rice, bananas, maize and fruit. Chief industries are food processing, chemicals, matches, leather, beer and plastic goods. Gold, copper, silver, lead and zinc are found.

Mission in India: Embassy of Nicaragua Stationed at Panama.

Hon. Consulate, 43-A, Prithviraj Road,

New Delhi-110011. Tel: 4694469; Telefax: 3221173.

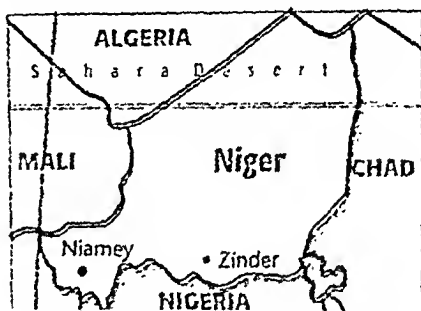
E-mail: vcb@dabur.com

123. Niger

(Republic of Niger)

Republique du Niger

Capital: Niamey; **Other Large Cities:** Zinder, Maradi; **Area:** 1,267,000 sq.km; **Population:** 13,272,679; **Languages:** French, Hausa and Djerma; **Religions:** Muslim-80%, remainder indigenous beliefs and Christian; **Literacy:** 28.7% (1995); **Life Expectancy:** 44.28; **p.c.i:** \$ 700; **HDI rank:** 174; **Date of Independence:** 3rd August, 1960.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Tandja Mamadou; **PM:** Seyni Oumarou.

History: The Republic of Niger lies in the heart of West Africa. Formerly part of French West Africa, Niger became independent from France in 1960 and experienced single-party and military rule until 1991, when Gen. Ali Saibou was

SAARC Observers

Afghanistan was inducted as the eighth member of SAARC in 2007. China, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea. Moreover, the US and the EU have observer status.

ciars and rivers. The largest lake is Mjosa; longest river Glomma; highest mountain Galdhopiggen.

History: The adoption of Christianity by King Olav Tryggvanson in 994 almost put an end to two centuries of Viking raids into Europe. Conversion of the Norwegian kingdom occurred over the next several decades. In 1397, Norway was absorbed into a union with Denmark that lasted more than four centuries. In 1814, Norwegians resisted the cession of their country to Sweden and adopted a new constitution. Sweden then invaded Norway but agreed to let Norway keep its constitution in return for accepting the union under a Swedish king. Rising nationalism throughout the 19th century led to a 1905 referendum granting Norway independence.

Almost three-quarters of the population live in the major towns and cities. The Sami, the indigenous people of the far north, number some 30,000 and form a distinct ethnic minority.

Economy: The important agricultural products are barley, oats, rye, potatoes, fruits and dairy products. Fishing is a major occupation with immense quantities of cod, herring, whale, tuna, seal, mackerel and salmon. Forests provide raw material for many industries. Mining is an important industry. There is very little coal but plenty of hydro-electric power to run big factories. High degree of industrialisation, the base for which was provided by abundant hydroelec-

tric resources, has given Norwegians one of the highest living standards in the world. The principal manufactures are food products, machinery and metal work, wood, paper and pulp, aluminium, electro-chemical products, ships and transportation equipment. Norway is one of the world's largest producers of chemical fertiliser. It possesses a large merchant marine. Norway is the world's third-largest exporter of oil, and relies on the black stuff for 200,000 jobs.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded every year in Oslo on December 10.

Since the mid-1980s, more than 40% of the members of the Government have been women. In 1993, the first woman bishop was appointed in Norway. Norway has led the way in building a modern welfare state.

Dependencies of Norway: Svalbard (62,700 sq.km.), Jan Mayen (380 sq.km.), Bouvet Island (60 sq.km.), Peter I Island (249 sq.km.), and Queen Maud Land.

Mission in India: Royal Norwegian Embassy, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 4177 9200; Fax: 4168 0145.

E-mail: emb.newdelhi@mfa.no

Indian Mission in Norway: Embassy of India, Niels Juels Gate 30, 0244 Oslo 2, Norway. Tel: 00-47-22443194, 22552229; Fax: 00-47-22440720.

E-mail: iamasade@online.no/india@online.no



(Sultanate of Oman) Saltanat' Uman
Capital: Muscat; **Area:** 300,000 sq.km;

How Many Smokers?

About 22% of adults worldwide currently smoke tobacco. 36% men and 8% women are smokers. India is home to 12 crore smokers.

but agriculture has lagged. Industry is diversified:- beer, cement, textiles, cigarettes, assembly of vehicles, soap, canned food and aluminium products being the main items. In the early 80s, with a civilian govt. in Lagos, Nigeria became a model of African democracy and prosperity. The civilian govt. was ousted in 1983.

On May 29, 1999 Olusegun Obasanjo, who was elected in February polls, became Nigeria's third civilian President since independence, following Nnamdi Azikiwe and Shehu Shagari, ending 15 years of military rule in the country.

The execution of writer and environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiva and eight associates in Nov. 1995 led to international sanctions against Nigeria, including suspension of its Commonwealth membership.

Nigeria has fallen into steep decline. Unemployment has soared. Inflation is high. Purchasing power of most Nigerians has reached subsistence levels.

Mission in India: High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Plot No. EP 4, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 2412 2142, 2412 2143;

E-mail: nhcnder@vsnl.com; Web: www.nigeriadelhi.com

Indian Mission in Nigeria: High Commission of India, 8-A, Eleke Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: 00-234-1-2616604, 2615078, 2615905. Fax: 00-234-1-2612660.

E-mail: hicomindfssimbaonline.net

NORWAY

(Kingdom of Norway)

Kongeniket Norge

Capital: Oslo; **Other Large Cities:** Bergen, Trondheim; **Area:** 323,895 sq.km; **Population:** 4,644,457; **Languages:** Norwegian; **Religions:** Church of Norway-85.7%, Pentecostal-1%, Roman Catholic-1%, other Christian-2.4%, Muslim-1.8%, Other-8.1%; **Literacy:** 100%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.81; **p.c.i:** \$55,600; **HDI rank:** 2; **Date of Independence:** 7th June, 1905.



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Harald V; **PM:** Jens Stoltenberg.

Norway in North-West Europe occupies the western part of the Scandinavian Peninsula. It is known as the Land of the Midnight Sun, because in North Cape area, the sun does not set from middle May until the end of July, nor does it rise above the horizon from the end of November to the end of January. Nearly 70% of Norway is uninhabitable and covered by mountains, moors, gla-

A Frightening Lady Liberty

A US penny minted in 1793 was in circulation for just two weeks. It was withdrawn because the Congress thought Lady Liberty looked too frightening. At an auction in California, the coin brought in \$632,500.



Government Type: Federal Republic; **President:** General Pervez Musharraf; **PM:** Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is bordered in the north-west by Afghanistan, north by the former USSR and China, east by India and south by the Arabian Sea.

History: The Muslim state that emerged from partition of British India on 14 August 1947 included an eastern



wing comprising mainly the eastern half of Bengal province and parts of Assam.

For nine years Pakistan remained a dominion. It was proclaimed an Islamic republic on 23 March 1956. A federal parliamentary system functioned until Field-Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan seized power in a coup in October 1958. Ayub proclaimed a presidential system in the constitution of 1962 and ruled until March 1969, when he was deposed by Gen. Yahya Khan.

In the first free elections in December 1970, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan

People's Party dominated the west while Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League swept the board in the east, winning 160 of the 162 seats.

East Pakistan proclaimed sovereignty and formed the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 26 March 1971. Civil war followed after Yahya, supported by Bhutto, ordered troops to arrest Mujib and put down the Bengali uprising. The east-west war ended in December 1971. Yahya handed over power to Bhutto, who ruled until July 1977, before being overthrown after an opposition campaign against alleged rigging in general elections. Gen. Zia-ul-Haq took over—initially to hold elections and transfer power to a civilian regime. But elections were twice postponed and Bhutto was tried for the murder of a political opponent and executed.

Gen. Zia was killed in a plane crash on August 17, 1988 and Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan took over as Acting President. The country was placed under emergency rule.

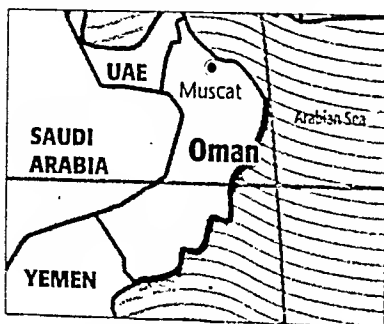
In the general election held on November 16, 1988 the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) led by Benazir Bhutto won the largest number of seats (92). Benazir assumed office as the PM on December 9. Ghulam Ishaq Khan was elected President on December 12.

Benazir was dismissed in Aug. '90 and Nawaz Sharif of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad took over as Pakistan's 11th Prime Minister on November 5. Sharif was dismissed in 1993. The Supreme Court annulled the dismissal leading to a constitutional impasse. Moeen Qureshi took

China and the Bible

With a new printing press opened in Nanjing, China is to step up its production of Bibles. The press is equipped to produce 23 Bibles a minute.

Population: 3,311,640; **Languages:** Arabic; **Religions:** Ibadhi Muslim-75%, Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu; **Literacy:** 81.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.91; **p.c.i.:** \$19,100; **HDI rank:** 58; **Date of Independence:** 1650.



Government Type: Monarchy; **Head of State & Govt:** Sultan Qabus Bin Said.

History: The Sultanate of Oman, formerly Muscat & Oman, occupies the south-eastern



part of the Arabian Peninsula. In the late 18th century, newly established Sultanate in Muscat signed the first in a series of friendship treaties with Britain. Over time, Oman's dependence on British political and military advisers increased, but it never became a British colony. In 1970, Qabus Bin Said al-Said overthrew the restrictive rule of his father; he has ruled as Sultan ever since.

Economy: Oil is the major source of income. It forms 95% of the exports. Where there is water, the land is very fertile. The Batina coastal plain is famous

for its dates, fruits and grains. Major industries are petroleum drilling, fishing and construction.

The sultanate has spent its oil resources frugally and made careful use of its natural advantages, such as its prime position astride important trade routes. The giant container port and free zone it has built at Salalah looks set to capture a growing share of the Indian Ocean transshipment business.

The Kuria Muria Islands, formerly part of Aden, were given to Oman by the British in 1967.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, EP 10&11, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 26885622, 26885623; Fax: 26885621

E-mail: omandelhi@vsnl.com

Indian Mission in Oman: Embassy of India, P.O. Box 1727, Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: 00-968-7714120; Fax: 00-968-7717503 E-mail: indiamct@omantel.net.com



(Islamic Republic of Pakistan)
Islam-i Jamhuriya-e Pakistan

Capital: Islamabad; **Other Large Cities:** Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar; **Area:** 796,095 sq.km; **Population:** 167,762,040; **Languages:** Urdu (Official), Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushtu, Baluchi, Brahui, English; **Religions:** Muslim-97% (Sunni-77%, Shi'a-20%), Christian, Hindu and others-3%; **Literacy:** 49.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 64.13; **p.c.i.:** \$2,600; **HDI rank:** 136; **Date of Independence:** 14th August, 1947.

Military Vs Water

Pakistan spends 47 times more on its military budget than on its water and sanitation budget, according to Human Development Report 2006. It is 10 times in Ethiopia, and eight times in India.

chip board and paper board, bicycles, cotton cloth, cotton yarn, cement and steel) contributes about 20% to GNP. Main exports are cotton cloth, cotton yarns, rice, leather, carpets and tapes-tries. There are international airports at Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta.

Mission in India: High Commission for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 2/50-G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021. Tel. 26110601-02/05, 24676004, 24678467, 24100905; Telefax: 26872339.

E-mail: Pakhc@nda.vsnl.net.in

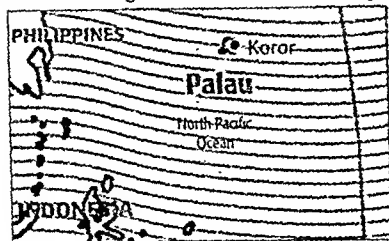
Indian Mission in Pakistan: High Commission of India, G-5, Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel: 00-92-51-2206950 to 54, 2828376; Fax: 00-92-51-2823102, 2823386.

E-mail: hicomind@isb.compul.com

183. Palau

(Republic of Palau or Belau)

Capital: Melekeok; **Area:** 1,632 sq.km; **Population:** 21,093; **Languages:** Palauan and English and others; **Religions:** Christian, Modekngei religion (one-third of the population observes this religion, which is indigenous to Palau); **Literacy:**



92%; **Life Expectancy:** 71.00; **p.c.i.:** \$ 7,600; **Date of Independence:** 1st October, 1994.

Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Tommy Remengesau Jr.

History: An archipelago in the Western Pacific, Palau consists of 26 islands and over 300 islets. In 1914 Japan occupied the islands, which became part of the UN Trust Territory of

the Pacific Islands created in 1947, and administered by the USA. Proclaimed an autonomous republic in 1981, a freely associated state in 1992, and an independent republic on Oct. 1, 1994. A self-governing state, Palau became the 185th UN member on 15 Dec. 1994. A new capital is being built in eastern Babelthup.

Economy: Chief crops: Coconuts, cassava, sweet potatoes. Natural resources: Fisheries, mainly tuna. Tourism is a major industry. About 40,000 visitors a year. About 6000 Paluans live abroad.

184. Panama

(Republic of Panama)

Republica de Panama

Capital: Panama City; **Other Large Cities:** San Miguelito, David; **Area:** 77,082 sq.km; **Population:** 3,292,690; **Languages:** Spanish, English; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-85%, Protestant-15%; **Literacy:** 91.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.17; **p.c.i.:** \$ 9,000; **H**

Woman is Smarter

A new survey in Australia has revealed that women are more efficient than men in most aspects of business management.

1996, Independence
 1975. Type: Parliamentary
 Gov. Gen: Sir Paulias Matane;
 Pres: Sir Paulias Matane;
 P.O. Box 1101

Guinea comprises the
 of the island of New
 Guinea and adjacent islands. New
 Guinea is the second largest island in
 the world.

It is a
 of lofty moun-
 and swampy
 islands are
 of volcanic
 coral origin. The population consists
 of dark-skinned Melanesians, who live
 mostly along the coasts and woolly-
 haired Papuans who inhabit the interior.
 There are more than 800 tribes, many of
 whom live in almost complete isolation
 with mutually unintelligible languages.
 became independent on Sept. 16, 1975,
 ending a U.N. trusteeship under the
 administration of Australia. All citizens
 above 18 are eligible to vote and stand
 for election.

More than 20,000 people have died on
 the island of Bougainville where a pro-
 test against a copper mine evolved into a
 ten-year-long rebellion that 13 rounds of
 peace talks have failed to resolve. Fighting
 by the government and the secessionist
 Bougainville Revolutionary Army was
 halted by a truce in Oct. '97. There was a

severe drought in 1997. On July 18, 1998
 a devastating tidal wave killed at least
 1000 people and wiped away a number
 of villages along the coastline.

Economy: Agriculture occupies the
 majority of the population, most of
 whom are subsistence farmers. Main
 food crops: Sago, yams, taro, manioc,
 and sweet potatoes. Cash crops include
 coconuts, cocoa, coffee and rubber. The
 country has large deposits of copper,
 gold, silver and oil. Nevertheless, Papua
 New Guinea remains a poor country, still
 receiving aid from Australia. The massive
 mining royalties, estimated at \$2 billion
 also support economy. Industries: For
 processing, beverages, tobacco, timber
 products.

Mission in India: High Commission
 of Papua New Guinea stationed at Kuala
 Lumpur.

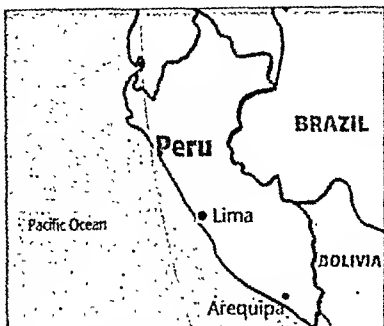
Indian Mission in Papua New
 Guinea: High Commission of India,
 Suite No. G-5, Hotel Islander Travel-
 odge, P.O. Box 86, Walgani, NCD, Port
 Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Tel: 00-
 675-3254757, 3251373; Fax: 00-67-
 3253138, 3201718(R).
 E-mail: hciipom@datec.com.pg

166 Paraguay
 (Republic of Paraguay)
 Republica del Paraguay

Capital: Asuncion; **Other Large**
 San Lorenzo, Encarnacion;
 406,752 sq km; **Population:** 6,
Languages: Spanish, Guaraní
Religions: Roman Catholic-89.6%
 tant-6.2% other Christian 1

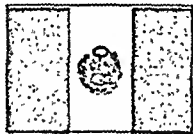
A Wheat Farmer

Australia's biggest wheat farmer Ron Greentree, sowing 80,000 ha with
 area almost as big as Hong Kong), hopes to produce 2,00,000 of wheat
 Australia's total.



dent: Alan Garcia Perez

History: Ancient Peru was the seat of several prominent Andean civilisations, most notably that of the Incas whose empire was captured by the Spanish conquistadors in 1533. Peruvian independence was declared in 1821,



and remaining Spanish forces defeated in 1824. After a dozen years of military rule, Peru returned to democratic leadership in 1980, but experienced economic problems and the growth of a violent insurgency. President Alberto Fujimori's selection in 1990 ushered in a decade that saw a dramatic turnaround in the economy and significant progress in curtailing guerrilla activity. Popular dissatisfaction with his authoritarian way of governance led to his ouster in 2000. A caretaker government oversaw new elections in the spring of 2001, which ushered in Alejandro Toledo as the new head of government—Peru's first democratically elected president of Native American ethnicity.

Economy: The leading agricultural products are cotton, wool, sugar, coffee, rice, beans and potatoes. Corn which is native to Peru is the staple food of the Indians, who also cultivate alfalfa. Fishing industry is well developed and Peru is the world's most important producer of fishmeal. The country, rich in minerals, is one of the leading producers of silver. Some of the biggest copper mines in the world are located in Peru. The chief exports are cotton, fish products, petroleum, copper and iron ore.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Peru, 14 Poorvi Marg, GF, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 26141154, 26152294; Fax: 26141155.

E-mail: consul@embaperuindia.com

Web: www.embaperuindia.com

Indian Mission in Peru: Embassy of India, 3006, Magdalena del Mar, Lima, 17, Peru. Tel: 00-51-1-2616006, 4602289, 2616751; Fax: 00-51-1-4610374.

E-mail: hoc@indembassy.org.pe

Website : www.indembassy.org.pe

133. The Philippines

(Republic of the Philippines)

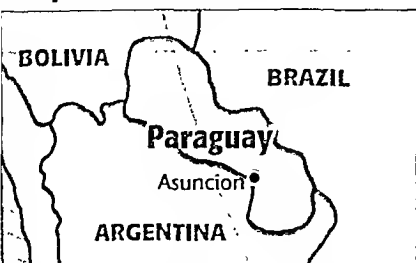
Republika ng Pilipinas

Capital: Manila; **Other Large Cities:** Quezon City, Davao; **Area:** 299,404 sq.km; **Population:** 92,681,453; **Languages:** Filipino, English and Spanish; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-80.9%, Evangelical-2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo-2.3%, Aglipayan-2%, other Christian-4.5%, Muslim-5%, other-1.8%, unspecified-.6%, none-0.1%; **Literacy:** 92.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.80; **p.c.i:** \$3,300; **HDI**

The Origin of Banjula

When Portuguese settlers asked the natives what the place was called, the question was thought to be 'What are you doing?'. The natives replied 'Bangjulo' meaning 'Making rope mats'. Banjul is the capital of Gambia.

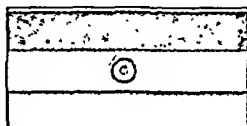
or unspecified 1.9%, none 1.1%; **Literacy:** 94%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.56; **p.c.i:** \$ 4,000; **HDI rank:** 95; **Date of Independence:** 14th May, 1811.



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Nicanor Duarte Frutos.

History:

Paraguay is one of the two land-locked countries of South America



surrounded by Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina. The Paraguay river is navigable for some 3000 km. and steamers come upto Asuncion which is the chief port of the state. This makes up for lack of coastline or sea harbours. Paraguay gained independence from Spain in 1811. In the disastrous War of the Triple Alliance(1865-70)-between Paraguay and Argentina,Brazil and Uruguay-Paraguay lost two-thirds of all adult males and much of its territory. It stagnated economically for the next half century.In the Chaco War of 1932-35, large, economically important areas were won from Bolivia.The 35-year military dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner was overthrown in 1989.

Economy: About 75 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied pursuits with cattle breeding as an important occupation. Main crops are maize, cotton, beans, tobacco and citrus fruits. The timber resources of the state are enormous. The chief exports are beef and other food products, quebracho (hard wood), hides and skins, cotton fibre and soya. Industries: Food processing, wood products, textiles, cement.

There was a coup attempt in May, 2000. An opposition leader, Julio Cesar Franco, was declared the winner in Paraguay's elections for Vice President in August. This created an unprecedented power-sharing arrangement with the President from the ruling party.

Indian Mission in Paraguay: Honorary Consulate General of India, Avda, Eusebio Ayale 3663,Km.4, Asuncion, Paraguay. Tel: 00-595-21-660111; Fax: 00-595-21-660115.



(Republic of Peru) Republica del Peru

Capital: Lima; **Other Large Cities:** Arequipa, Callao; **Area:** 1,281,215 sq.km; **Population:** 29,180,899; **Languages:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-81%, Seventhday Adventist 1.4%, other Christian 0.7%, other 0.6% unspecified or none 16.3%; **Literacy:** 87.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.44; **Currency:** New Sol (\$1=3.158); **p.c.i:** \$ 7,600; **HDI rank:** 87; **Date of Independence:** 28th July, 1821.

Government Type: Republic; **Presi-**

110 New Countries

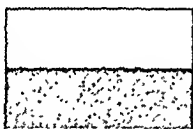
In 1950, there were only 82 countries in the world. Today 192 countries are members of the UN. Vatican and Taiwan are not UN members.

Population: 38,500,696; **Languages:** Polish; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-89.8%, Eastern Orthodox-1.3%, Protestant-0.3%, other-0.3% and unspecified-8.3%; **Literacy:** 99.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.41; **p.c.i:** \$: 16,200; **HDI rank:** 37; **Date of Independence:** 11th November, 1918.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Lech Kaczynski; **PM:** Donald Tusk.

History: A republic of upper central Europe, Poland's history goes back to the tenth century A.D. Partitioned in the 18th century, it became independent in 1918. The Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939 initiated World War II. The country was liberated again in 1944.



Solidarity movement led by Nobel Prize winner Lech Walesa played an important part in bringing down the communist dictatorship in 1989. The communist party was dissolved in 1990. Poland joined the European Union on

May 1, 2004.

Economy: About 62% of the population are urban; 32% of the population are engaged in agriculture. Chief crops are rye, wheat, oats, potatoes, sugar beets, tobacco and flax. The country has vast resources of mineral wealth, particularly coal, besides iron, lignite, natural gas, lead, zinc and sulphur. Textile, chemicals and metallurgy are old, established industries. New industries include automobiles, tractors, heavy machinery, ship-building and aircraft manufacturing. Main exports are ships, coal, steel and clothing. Wide ranging measures to convert the economy into a market oriented system were introduced in 1981. In 1991, the government announced an ambitious privatisation plan.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Poland, 50-M Shantipath Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 41496900 (Ambassador's Office) 41496901; Fax: 26871914 (Embassy) 26872033 (Commercial Section)

E-mail: polemb@airtelbroadband.in

Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai: Manavi Apartment 2nd Flr., 36, B.G. Kher Marg, Malabar Hill, Mumbai-400 006; Ph: (91 22) 23633863

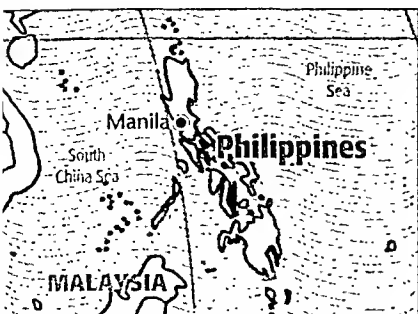
E-mail: poland@vsnl.com

Indian Mission in Poland: Embassy of India, Ul. Rejtana 15 (Flats 2 & 7) Mokotow, 02-516 Warsaw, Poland. Tel: 00-48-22-8495800, 8496257; Fax: 00-48-22-8496705, 8498505.

E-mail: goi@indem.it.pl

A Potato War of Words

This is the UN Year of the Potato. Peru and Chile laid claim to the origin of potato, which is indigenous to South America. While the two arrayed evidence to prove their right, Bolivia uncovered traces of a spud that pre-dated those of its neighbours.



Rank: 90; **Date of Independence:** 12th June, 1898.

Government Type: Republic; **President & PM:** Ms. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

An archipelago of about 7100 islands, the Republic of the Philippines lies in the western Pacific Ocean, over 800 km. off the southeast coast of Asia. Just 11 islands constitute 94 per cent of the total land area. The principal islands are Luzon in the north and Mindanao in the south.

History: The Philippine islands, discovered by Magellan in 1521, were conquered by Spain in 1565. The islands, named for King Philip II of Spain, were ceded to USA in 1898. Became completely independent in 1946.

Economy: Main agricultural crops are rice, maize, sugar, tobacco, coconut, pineapple and bananas. Manufacturing is a major source of economic development. Industries include textiles, rubber products, oil refinery, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics assembly, furni-

ture, cigarettes, paper, metal, glassware and food products. The Philippines is rich in natural resources and has iron, silver, gold, chromite, manganese and copper deposits in commercial quantity. It has also marble quarries, forests and extensive fishing grounds.

Ferdinand Marcos was President from 1965 to '86. Corazon Aquino succeeded him. The U.S. vacated the Subic Bay Naval Station at the end of the year.

Government and Moslem separatist negotiators signed an agreement on Aug. 30, 1996 to end 24 years of bloody conflict in the south of the country which had claimed 125,000 lives. A plebiscite is to be held in 14 provinces on Mindanao island.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Philippines, 50-N, Nyaya Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: (91-11) 24101120, 26889091; Fax: 26876401.

E-mail: newdelhipe@bol.net.in

Consulate: Mumbai: Tel: 22024792, Fax: 22814103; Kolkata: Tel: 22808353, Fax: 22808354; Chennai: Tel: 2354063, Fax: 2352062

Indian Mission in Philippines: Embassy of India, 2190 Paraiso Street, Dasmariñas Village, Makati, Metro, Manila, Philippines, Tel: 00-63-2-8430101/02; Fax: 00-63-2-8158151.

E-mail: amb@embindia.org.ph

139. Poland

(Republic of Poland)
Rzeczpospolita Polska

Capital: Warsaw; **Other Large Cities:** Lodz, Krakow; **Area:** 312,677 sq.km;

A Rich Island

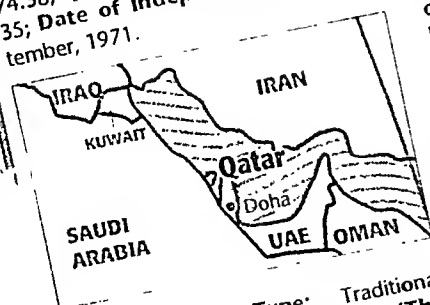
Jersey Island, off the coast of the UK, boasts of a \$57,000 per capita income (2005). Financial services contribute to 60% of the island's economy.

Territories

Area: 11,437 sq.km; Population: 2,080,000; Partial autonomy offered in 1976.

Leira Islands
Area: 15 sq.km; Population: 437,312;
North East coast of Africa. Autonomous Region since 1976.

QATAR
(State of Qatar) Dawlat al-Qatar
Capital: Doha; Area: 11,437 sq.km;
Population: 2,080,000; Languages: Arabic, English; Religions: Muslim-75%, Christian 8.5%, others 14%; Literacy: 89%; Life Expectancy: 74.38; P.C.I.: \$ 75,900; HDI rank: 35; Date of Independence: 3rd September, 1971.



Government Type: Traditional Monarchy; **Head of State & (The Amir):** Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifah al Thani. **PM:** Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabir al-Thani

Qatar is a 160 km. long tongue of land jutting into the Persian (Arabian) Gulf. It is surrounded almost on three

sides by the Persian Gulf. It lies to the south.



History: Ruled by the al-Thani family since the mid-1800s, Qatar transformed itself from a poor British protectorate into an independent state with significant oil and natural gas revenues. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the economy was crippled by continuous siphoning off of petroleum by the amir, who had ruled the country since 1972. His son, the current Amir Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, overthrew him in a bloodless coup in 1995.

Economy: Most of the population live in and around Doha, the capital. Immigrants from Pakistan, Iran and Oman now outnumber the native Qataris. Today the oil industry provides over 90% of the national income but employs only less than 5% of the population. Even so, the future lies with gas. Qatar's Dukhan field has been exploited since 1980, but most attention is now focused on the North field, which is the world's largest gas field not associated with oil. Qatar is connected by road to the rest of Arabia and by air to the rest of the world. **Agriculture:** Cereals, fruits, vegetables. **Industries:** fertilisers, steel, petrochemicals, cement.

Mission in India: Embassy of State of Qatar, EP-31A, Chand Marg, Chana-kyapuri, New Delhi 110021. Tel: 26117988, 26117989; Fax: 26117988. **Indian Mission in Qatar**

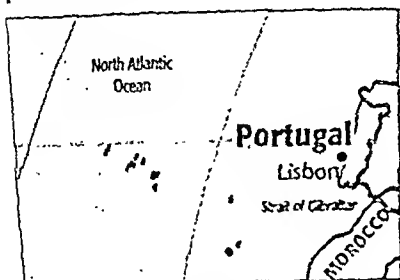
The World's Largest Military

China announced a 17.6 increase in its 2008 defence budget, up to \$58.8 billion. The country has a 2.3 million-person military. It is the world's largest.

140. PORTUGAL

(Republic of Portugal)
República Portuguesa

Capital: Lisbon; **Other Large Cities:** Oporto, Amadora; **Area:** 92,072 sq.km; **Population:** 10,676,910; **Languages:** Portuguese; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-84.5%, other Christian 2.2%, other 0.3% unknown 9%, none 3.9%; **Literacy:** 93.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.04; **p.c.i.:** \$21,800; **HDI rank:** 29; **Date of Independence:** 1143.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Anibal Cavaco Silva; **PM:** Jose Socrates.

Portugal is a small rectangular territory in the southwest corner of the Iberian Peninsula.

History: After enjoying status as a world power during the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal lost much of its

wealth and status with the destruction of Lisbon in a 1755 earthquake, occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, and the independence in 1822 of Brazil as a



colony. A revolution in 1910 deposed the monarchy; for most of the next six decades, totalitarian governments ran the country. In 1974, a left-wing military coup resulted in broad democratic reforms.

Economy: Nineteen per cent of the country is forest, where pine, oak, chestnut and cork grow in abundance. Winegrapes, olives, grains and potatoes are the principal agricultural products. The major minerals are coal, copper, kaolin, wolframite, lithium and titanium. Textiles, chemicals, paper, footwear and glassware are the principal manufactures. The main exports are wine, canned sardines, tuna, anchovies, resins and cork. Portugal is one of the leading producers of cork.

In 1989, a package of reforms that did away with the socialist economy was approved by parliament.

In August, '98, Portugal and Indonesia agreed to discuss an Indonesian plan that would confer a special status for East Timor.

Portugal returned Macao to China in Dec., 1999.

Mission in India: Embassy of Portugal, 8, Olof Palme Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 26142215; Fax: 26152837

E-mail: empartin@ndi.vsnl.net.in

Web: www.embportindia.com

Indian Mission in Portugal: Embassy of India, Rua Pero da Corina, No. 16 1400 Lisbon, Portugal. Tel: 00-351-21-3041090; Fax: 00-351-21-3076572

E-mail: indiaembcom@email.emb

Russia is Six Times India

Russia's territory is two-thirds of that of the Soviet Union, but it is the largest country in the world. Russia's territory is nearly six times the population is eight times smaller.

Indian Mission in Romania: Embassy India, 11, Uruguay Street, Sector 1, Bucharest (Romania). Tel: 00-40-1-225451, 2228715; Fax: 00-40-1-232681.

E-mail: amb@eoibuc.dnt.ro/ss@eoibuc.dnt.ro

RUSSIA

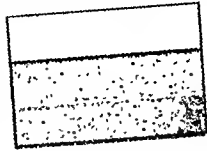
(Russian Federation)
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

Capital: Moscow; **Other Large Cities:** St. Petersburg, Samara; **Area:** 17,075,000 sq. km; **Population:** 140,702,094; **Languages:** Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Uzbek, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, and others; **Religions:** Russian Orthodox-15.20%, Muslim-10-15%, other Chris-

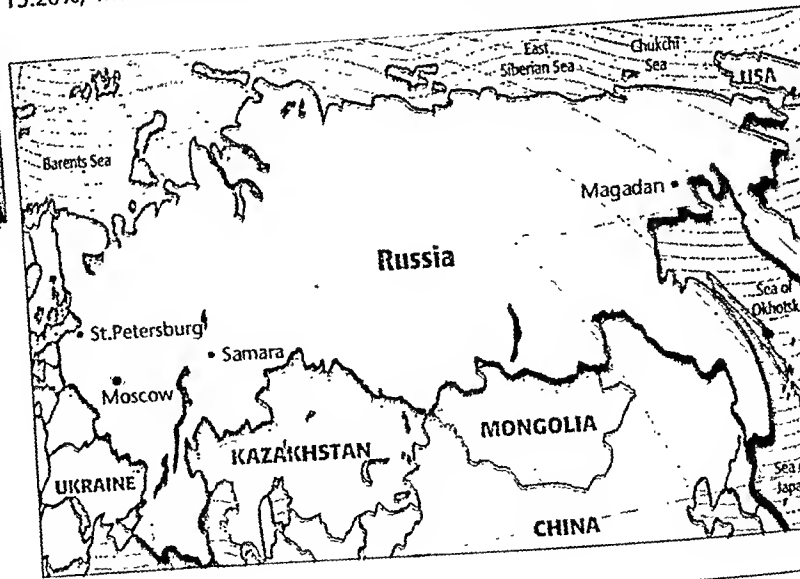
tian-2%; **Literacy:** 99.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 65.94; **p.c.i.:** \$14,600; **HDI rank:** 67; **Date of Independence:** 24th August, 1991

Government Type: Federal Republic; **President:** Dmitry Medvedev; **PM:** Vladimir Putin.

Russia, the largest country in the world in area, stretches across the continents of Asia and Europe. It extends for over 9600 km. from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean and for 4800 km. from north to south.



History: Russia, an independent country since 1991, is 75% of the total area of the former Soviet Union and has 50% of its



Auspicious Wedding on 08.08.08

Russian couples who considered Aug. 8, 2008 especially fortuitous for wedding as the digit eight resembles the mathematical sign for infinity rushed to registry offices in August. Staff worked overtime to handle the surge in applications.

bassy of India, P.O. Box 2788, Al-Hilal Area, Doha, Qatar. Tel: 00-974-4672021, 46772716; Fax: 00-974-4670448.

E-mail: indembdh@qatar.net.qa

192. Romania

Capital: Bucharest; **Other Large Cities:** Brasov, Timisoara; **Area:** 237,500 sq km; **Population:** 22,246,862; **Languages:** Romanian, Hungarian, German; **Religions:** Eastern Orthodox-86.8%, Protestant-7.5%, Roman Catholic-4.7%, other and unspecified 0.9%, none 0.1%; **Literacy:** 97.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.18; **p.c.i:** \$11,100; **HDI rank:** 60; **Date of Independence:** 9th May, 1877.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Traian Basescu; **PM:** Calin Popescu-Tariceanu.

Romania lies in the south east of the central part of Europe.

History: The principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia secured their autonomy in 1856. They were under the suzerainty of the Turkish Ottoman Empire



for centuries. The principalities united in 1859 and a few years later adopted the new name of Romani. The post-war Soviet occupation led to the formation of a Communist "people's republic" in 1947 and the abdication of the king. In 1965, Romania became a socialist republic. It ended Communist dictatorship in 1989 by shooting long-time president Nicolae Ceausescu. National Salvation Front took over power in 1990. Romania's King Michael returned home in Feb., 1997, 50 years after Communists banished him.

Economy: Industry, which accounts for 30% of the GDP, dominates Romanian economy. Heavy industries are predominated by drilling rigs for oil, equipment for oil refineries, petrochemical industry, cement, thermo and hydro electric power, diesel and electric locomotives of high capacity, engineering and consumer goods, etc. Many state-owned companies were privatised in 1996.

Romanian agriculture recorded profound changes during the last three decades, beginning with the land reforms of 1945. Chief crops: grains, potatoes, vegetables, sunflower. Forests cover over a quarter of the country.

The exports are mostly made up of machines and equipment, chemical products, chemicals, fertilisers and industrial consumer goods.

Mission in India: Embassy of Romania, A-7, Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Tel: 2614045 2614070; Fax: 26140611.

E-mail: embrom@airtelbroadband.in; emrod_ecofromania@airtelbroadband.in.

The Fourth World

The Fourth World consists of the 25 poorest countries. The United Nations categorised this group of countries, which was added to the three main blocks of the First World, Second World and the Third World.

(Consular Deptt.); Web: www.india.mid.ru

Consulate: Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai: 42, Near Sea Road, "Palm Beach", Mumbai-400 006; Ph: 022-2363-36-27, 2-363-6,28, 2-368-14-31; E-mail: consul@mtnl.ne.in

Consulate: Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Chennai, 14, Santhome High Road, Chennai-600 004, Tel: 091-044-498-2320/498-2330, E-mail: madrasrus@vsnl.net

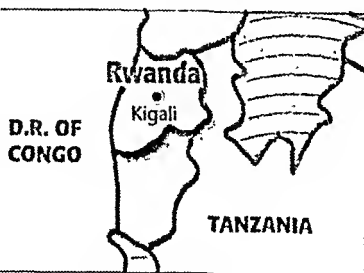
Indian Mission in Russian Federation: Embassy of India, 6-8 Ulitsa Morontsovo Polye (Obukha), Moscow (Russia). Tel: 00-7-495-7837535; Fax: 00-7-495-9163632; E-mail: indembas@seneubh.msk.ru



(Republic of Rwanda)

Republica y'u Rwanda

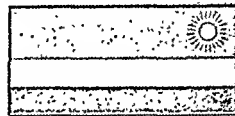
Capital: Kigali; **Other Large Cities:** Ruhengeri, Butare; **Area:** 26,338 sq km; **Population:** 10,186,063; **Languages:** French, Kinyarwanda and Swahili; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-56.5%, Protestant-26%, Adventist-11.1%, Mus-



lim-4.6%, indigenous beliefs-0.1%, none-1.7%; **Literacy:** 70.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 49.76; **p.c.f:** \$ 1,000; **HDI rank:** 161; **Date of Independence:** 1st July, 1962.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Major Gen. Paul Kagame. **PM:** Bernard Makuza.

History: Formerly part of the Belgian Trusteeship of Ruanda - Urundi in east-central Africa, the Republic of Rwanda became independent on July



1, 1962. One of the most densely populated countries of Africa, it is

known as "the nation of a thousand hills" because of its mountainous nature.

Rwanda presents a dismal scene of ethnic fighting. For centuries, the Tutsi dominated the Hutus (90% of the population). A civil war of 1959 put an end to Tutsi power. Many Tutsi went into exile. In 1963, Tutsi exiles invaded but it resulted in a large scale massacre of Tutsi. After a coup attempt by Tutsi exiles in 1990, a multi-party democracy was established. Ethnic strife resumed and a peace accord between the government and the Tutsi rebels was signed in August, 1993. Thousands had died and the war had led to one of world's biggest movements of refugees. President Juvenal Habyarimana, along with the Burundi President, died in a suspicious plane crash in April, 1994. Ethnic violence broke out and 50,000 died in massacres. Hutu refugees in Western Rwanda crossed into Zaire as Tutsi rebels held 2/3 of the country. In July, the Tutsi-dominated

Russia's Shrinking Population

Over the past 15 years, Russia's population has shrunk from 148.5 m. to 142 m. The government has vowed to stop the decline by 2011.

total population. About 70% of USSR's total industrial and agricultural output came from Russia.

Russia has now taken the place of the former Soviet Union in international fora. Russia adopted the name 'Russian Federation'.

On December 8, 1991, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine concluded an agreement establishing a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with its headquarters in Minsk. The member states are the three founders and nine subsequent adherents: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and Georgia.

The Russian Federation consists of 21 Republics, 6 Territories, 49 Provinces, 10 Autonomous Areas, 2 Cities of federal status (Moscow & St. Petersburg) and the Jewish Autonomous Region (Birobikan).

In 1993, a drive to privatise thousands of large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises was launched. President Yeltsin narrowly survived an impeachment vote by the Congress of Deputies in March. In Oct., Yeltsin ordered the army to attack and seize the parliament building, where anti-Yeltsin legislators had barricaded themselves. About 140 people were killed in the fighting. In Feb. '94, parliament amnestied those arrested after the occupation of the parliament building.

In July '94, Russia joined NATO's partnership for peace plan of military cooperation with former communist states. In May, '96, presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a treaty to boost closer links

among them.

Chechen separatists have been a major problem since the winter of 1994-'95 when Russian troops were sent in to crush Chechnya's secessionist leadership. In August, '96, the war ended with an agreement between the government and the separatists to defer the decision on whether Chechnya should be independent until Dec. 31, 2001. Fighting resumed and Russia suffered heavy losses.

In Apr. '97, the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and China signed a demilitarisation accord providing for considerable troop reductions along their 7000 km. common border.

In Aug. 97, Russia announced the dismantling of all rocket missiles targeted on western strategic centres. Russia's army was to shrink from 1.8m. to 1.2m.

Economy: Grain, cotton, potatoes, sugar beets, sunflower, are the main agricultural products. Natural resources include iron ore, oil, gold, platinum, copper, zinc, lead and tin. Russia also has the world's largest reserves of timber. Russia's gold industry is world's second largest. Steel mills, huge dams, oil and gas industries and electric rail roads have transformed parts of Siberia. The Russian fishing fleet, operating from the Arctic waters to the Pacific, is one of the biggest in the world.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Russian Federation, Shantipath, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 021. Tel: 26273202; Fax: (9111) 26273202

E-mail: indru@embdel.mfa.ru
(Embassy); indcom@embdel.mfa.ru

Billionaires of Russia

Russia has more than 100 dollar billionaires. This is ~~more~~
The number of Russian billionaires grew by 51% in a single

146. San Marino

(Most Serene Republic of San Marino)

Capital: San Marino; **Other Large Cities:** Seravalle, Borgo Maggiore; **Area:** 61 sq km; **Population:** 29,973; **Languages:** Italian; **Religions:** Roman Catholic; **Literacy:** 96%; **Life Expectancy:** 81.88; **p.c.i:** \$ 34,100; **Date of independence:** 3rd September, 301 A.D.



Government Type: Republic

Captains-Regent: Two co-regents appointed every six months from the Great and General Council of 60 members elected every 5 years.

History: The Republic of San Marino is a landlocked state in central Italy, 20 km. from the Adriatic.



It claims to be the oldest state in Europe, having been founded in A.D. 301, and the oldest republic in the world. A communist-led coalition ruled 1947-'57, a similar coalition ruled 1978-'86. San Marino has had a treaty of friendship with Italy since 1862.

Economy: The principal products are wheat, wine and olives. Industries include textiles, ceramics, cement, paper, postage stamps, leather and woolen goods. Tourism is the major source of revenue.

A person born in San Marino remains a citizen and can vote no matter where he lives. Women were granted the vote in 1959.

Mission in India: Honorary Consul, Late General of the Republic of San Marino, 15, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi 110011. Tel: 23015850, Fax: 23019677
E-mail: bhaims@ndb.vsnl.net.in

147. Sao Tome & Principe

(Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe)

Capital: Sao Tome; **Area:** 964 sq km; **Population:** 206,178; **Languages:** Portuguese, native dialects like Fang; **Religions:** Catholic-70.3%, Evangelical-3.4%, New Apostolic-2%, Adventist-1.8%, other-3.1%, none-19.4%; **Literacy:** 84.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 68.00; **p.c.i:** \$1,200; **HDI rank:** 123; **Date of Independence:** 12th July, 1975.

Government Type: Republic; Presi-



Beauty from Donkey

It is said that Cleopatra, (c.69-30 B.C.) queen of Egypt, soaked herself in donkey's milk to get a glowing skin.

ndan Patriotic Front named a Hutu, new President. About one million refugees flooded back to Rwanda from Tanzania and Zaire in Nov. '96. Paul Kagame (sworn in Apr. 2000) is the first president of Rwanda.

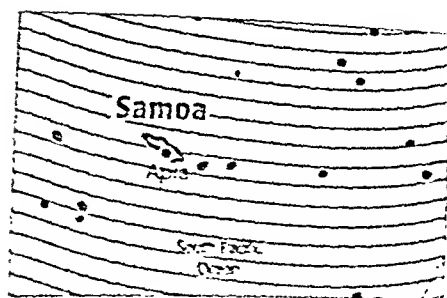
Economy: The economy is agricultural and remains mainly at the subsistence level. Coffee, cotton, sorghum, cassava and sweet potatoes are the principal crops. Minerals include tin ore, tungsten, tantalite, gold and beryl. Industry is undeveloped. Food manufacturing is the chief industrial activity. Livestock rearing is widespread and hides and skins are exported.

In July, 2000 an international panel set up by OAU concluded that the genocide which 8 lakhs Tutsi people were killed was avoidable, and the Security Council should try to stop it.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda, 41, Paschimi Marg, Connaught Vihar, New Delhi - 110 057. Tel: 56 1604; Fax: 4166 1605.

E-mail: rwandaembassy@yahoo.com
ambadelhi@minaffet.gov.nv

Indian Mission in Rwanda: Honorary Consulate General of India, M/S Sulfo Rwanda Industries, Rue de Lac Kivu, B.P. 90, Kigali, Rwanda. Tel: 00-250-74556; Fax: 00-250-74290.



Literacy: 99.7%; Life Expectancy: 71.58; p.c.i: \$ 2,100; HDI rank: 77; Date of Independence: 1st January, 1962.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; Head of State: Tupua Tamasese Efi Pusi; Prime Minister: Tuila'epa Sa'alelelele.

History: Samoa in South Pacific consists of the two large islands of Savaii and Upolu.



the small islands of Manono and Apolima and several uninhabited islets lying off the coast. The International Date Line passes very near Samoa. Eastern Samoa (American Samoa) with its capital at Fagotogo remains a dependency of the USA. (Area: 197 sq km.)

A former German protectorate, Samoa was administered by New Zealand from 1920 to 1961. Became fully independent on Jan. 1, 1962. Has close links with New Zealand, on which it is dependent for military and economic assistance.

Economy: The economy is mainly agricultural. The chief products are fish, copra, bananas, taro, tree barks, bark cloth and mats.

Putin's Travels

Russian President Vladimir Putin made 190 foreign trips during his eight office. He visited 65 countries and territories on five continents.

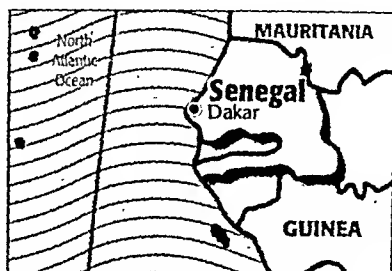
ems according to Islamic law, choosing a council of ministers, many of whom are Sa'uds.

Economy: Saudi Arabia has the largest reserves of petroleum in the world (25% of the proved reserves), ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum, and plays a leading role in OPEC. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 75% of budget revenues, 45% of GDP, and 90% of export earnings. Chief agricultural products are dates, wheat, barley, fruit, hides and wool. Industry: Petrochemicals, fertilisers, steel, gas, plastics. New industrial cities are being built at Jubail and Yanbu on the Gulf.

Mission in India: Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 2, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 2614 4102, 26144073, 26144083, 26144093. Fax: 26144244, 26144201. E-mail: in-emb@mofa.gov.sa

Indian Mission in Saudi Arabia: Embassy of India, B-1, Diplomatic Quarter, P.B.No. 94387, Riyadh-11693, Saudi Arabia. Tel: 00-966-1-4884144, 4884691/92; Fax: 00-966-1-4884750.

E-mail: info@indianembassy.org.sa



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Abdoulaye Wade; **PM:** Cheikh Hadjibou Soumare.

Senegal lies on the West African bulge. Dakar, the capital, is the westernmost point in Africa.

History: Formerly a French colony, Senegal became a self-governing republic in 1960. Senegal was a one party state from 1966 to 1974, when a pluralist system was re-established.



French political and economic influence is strong. In 1981, Senegal signed an agreement with the Gambia for a confederation of the two states under the name Senegambia. The confederation, established on Feb. 1, 1982, was dissolved on Sept. 21, 1989.

Economy: Agriculture and livestock rearing are the chief occupations. Crops: Peanuts, millet, rice. There are large deposits of iron ore and phosphate. Industry: Food processing, chemicals, textiles and fishing. A long drought brought famine in 1972-73 and in 1978.

Abdoulaye Wade became President in March, 2000, succeeding Abdou Diouf.

Mission in India: Embassy of the

149. Senegal

(Republic of Senegal)

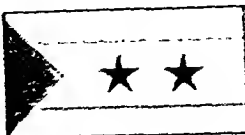
Capital: Dakar; **Other Large Cities:** Thies, Kaolack, St. Louis; **Area:** 196,162 sq km; **Population:** 12,853,259; **Languages:** French, Wolof and other native tongues; **Religions:** Muslim-94%, indigenous beliefs-1%, Christian-5% (Mostly Roman Catholic); **Literacy:** 39.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 57.08; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,700; **HDI rank:** 156; **Date of Independence:** 4th April, 1960.

The Empty Quarter

Beyond the western highlands in Saudi Arabia is a vast plateau, in the centre of which is the rocky expanse of the Najd, around which circles an arc of desert, which includes the world's largest area of sand, the Rub' al Khali- 'the empty quarter'.

nt: Fradique De Menezes; PM: Patrice
voada.

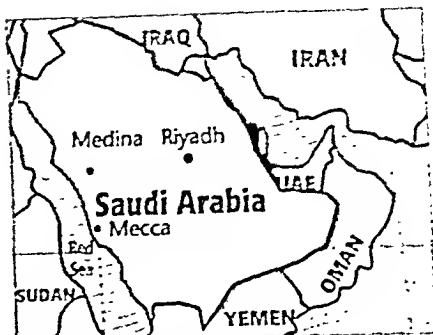
History: These two islands, with a few
er nearby is-
s, lie in the
ulf of Guinea,
out 200 km.
om Gabon.
tuated north



f the equator, these islands have hot
teaming weather in the summer, but
plenty of rainfall. Forests cover 60% of
he land area. The largest of the islands
s Sao Tome, on which stands Sao Tome,
the capital and chief port.

These islands were under the Portu-
guese until 1975 when they became in-
dependent.

Economy: Today, the country's
economy is geared almost exclusively
to the production of agricultural export
commodities, especially cocoa (78% of
exports) and coconut products. Fishing
is an important activity. Sao Tome has to
import most of its food. There is virtually
no manufacturing industry except soap,
soft drinks etc.



23rd September, 1932

Government Type: Monarchy;
Head of State & Govt: Abdallah bin
Abd al-Aziz Al Saud.

History: Saudi
Arabia, named after
the ruling dynasty
of Sa'ud, occupies
nearly fourth-fifths
of the Arabian Pen-
insula.



In the province of Hejaz are Medina
and Mecca (the religious capital), the
holy cities of Islam. The mosque of the
Prophet in Medina enshrines the tomb
of Mohammed, who died in the city in
632. More than 600,000 Muslims from
about 60 nations pilgrimage to Mecca,
the Prophet's birthplace, every year. Of
the total population, 6 m. are foreign-
ers.

The Saudi king, whose official title
is custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
(at Mecca and Medina), rules as abso-
lute monarch. His heir and deputy, the
crown prince, is selected from among
the Sa'ud family by its leading members
in consultation with the ulama, or su-
preme religious council. The king gov-

148. Saudi Arabia

(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
al-Mamlaka al 'Araiya as-Sa'udiya

Capital: Riyadh (Royal) and Jeddah (Ad-
ministrative); **Other Large Cities:** Mec-
ca, Damman, Medina; **Area:** 2,250,070
sq km; **Population:** 28,161,417; **Lan-
guages:** Arabic; **Religions:** Muslim-
100%; **Literacy:** 78.8%; **Life Expec-
tancy:** 76.09; **p.c.i.:** \$ 20,700; **HDI
rank:** 61; **Date of Independence:**

Global Oil and Gas Reserves

Global proven oil reserves were estimated to be 1,188 b. barrels as per the 2006
figures. The proven gas reserve was found to be 6,400 trillion cubic feet.

as president. In 2002, the Serbian and Montenegrin components of Yugoslavia began negotiation to forge a closer relationship. These talks became a reality in February 2003 when lawmakers restructured the country into a loose federation of two republics called Serbia and Montenegro.

The constitutional charter of Serbia and Montenegro included a provision that allowed either republic to hold a referendum after three years that would allow for their independence from the state union. In the spring of 2006, Montenegro took advantage of the provision to undertake a successful independence vote enabling it to secede on 3rd June. Two days later, Serbia declared that it was the successor state to the union of Serbia and Montenegro.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, 3/50 G Niti Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 26873661/26872073; Fax: 26885535.

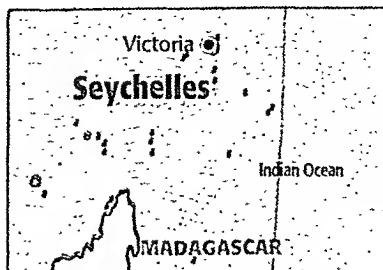
E-mail: office@embassyofserbiadelhi.net.in

Indian Mission in Serbia & Montenegro: Embassy of India, Vase Pelagica 30, Senjak, Belgrade. Tel: 00-381-11-3692431; Fax: 00-381-11-3692435.

SEYCHELLES

(Republic of Seychelles)

Capital: Victoria; **Area:** 308 sq km; **Population:** 82,247; **Languages:** Creole, English and French; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-82.3%, Anglican-6.4%, Seventh Day Adventist-1.1%, other Christian-3.4%, Hindu-2.1%, Muslim-1.1%, other non-Christian-1.5%, unspecified-1.5%,



none-0.6%; **Literacy:** 91.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.60; **p.c.i:** \$ 18,400; **HDI rank:** 50; **Date of Independence:** 29th June, 1976.

Government Type: Republic; **President & PM:** James Michel.

History: Situated in western Indian Ocean, over 1100 km. off NE of Madagascar, Seychelles is a group of about 115 lovely islands. Half the islands



are coral-line and the other half granitic. The principal island is Mahe on which the capital Victoria is situated. Praslin and La Digue are two other islands. Seychelles was entirely uninhabited when the French established settlements there in 1768. It was ruled as part of Mauritius from 1814. Britain seized the group of islands in 1794. In 1903, it became a separate colony. Independence was declared on June 29, 1976, and Seychelles became a one - party state in 1979. In June, 1993, a new constitution provided for a multi-party state.

The population of Seychelles is of mixed origin, a unique blend of European, African, Indian and Chinese races. Seychelles is renowned for its fine

Collapse on New Year's Day

The regime of Cuba's dictator Batista collapsed on New Year's Day 1959. Batista fled to Dominica.

Republic of Senegal, C-6/11, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Tel:26147687. Fax:24142422.

Indian Mission in Senegal: Embassy of India, 5, Avenue Carde, First Floor, BP 398, Dakar, Senegal. Tel:00-221-8225875, 8210979; Fax: 00-221-8223585.

E-mail:indiaemb@telecomplus.sn

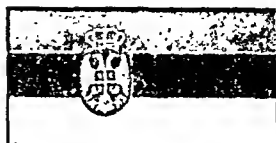
150. Serbia

Capital: Belgrade; **Other Large Cities:** Titograd, Novisad; **Area:** 77,474 sq. km.; **Population:** 10,159,046; **Languages:** Serbo-Croatian (official) 95%, Albanian 5%; **Religions:** Serbian Orthodox, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Protestant; **Literacy:** 96.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.29; **p.c.i:** \$ 7,700; **Date of Independence:** 27th April 1992.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Boris Tadic.

History: The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was formed in 1918; its name was changed to Yugoslavia in 1929. Occupation by Nazi Germany in



1941 was resisted by various paramilitary bands that fought themselves

as the invaders. The group headed by Marshal Tito took full control upon German expulsion in 1945. In the 1990s, Yugoslavia began to unravel itself along ethnic lines. Slovenia, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all declared their independence in 1991; Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. In April 1992 Serbia and Montenegro announced the formation of a new Yugoslav Federation and invited Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to join. The United Nations imposed economic sanctions on Serbia when Serbian Military and financial aid poured into the Bosnian Serb campaign of "ethnic cleansing". In 1995 Milosevic signed the Dayton peace accord, which ended the Bosnian War. In 1996 local elections, the Serbian Socialist Party was defeated in many areas. In 1997 Milosevic was forced to acknowledge the poll results after massive demonstrations in Belgrade. He later resigned the presidency of Serbia in order to become president of Yugoslavia. In 1998 fighting erupted in Kosovo between Albanian nationalists and Serbian forces. In 1999, following the forced expulsion of Albanians from Kosovo, Nato launched an airwar against Serbia and Montenegro to prevent a humanitarian crisis. Federal elections in the fall of 2000, brought about the ouster of Milosevic and installed Vojislav Kostunica

The Unique Yugoslavia

There is no country by the name Yugoslavia today. Once it was known as one country with six republics, two alphabets, five nationalities, three religions and four principal languages.

ustry: light engineering.

Mission in India: Embassy of Sierra Leone Stationed at Tehran.

Indian Mission in Sierra Leone: Honorary Consulate General of India, Post Box No. 26, 5, Rawdon Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Tel: 00-232-22-22452; Fax: -232-22-226343.

SINGAPORE

(Republic of Singapore)

Capital: Singapore city; **Area:** 616.3 sq km; **Population:** 4,608,167; **Language:** Malay, Chinese, Tamil and English; **Religions:** Buddhist (Chinese), Muslim (Malays), Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Taoist, Confucianist; **Literacy:** 92.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 81.89; **p.c.i.:** \$ 48,900; **HDI Rank:** 25; **Date of Independence:** 9th August, 1965.



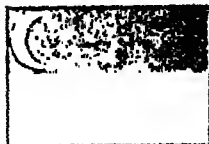
Government Type: Republic; **President:** S.R. Nathan, **PM:** Lee Hsien Loong.

Singapore is one of the smallest, most densely populated and most prosperous countries in the world. Most of the population live on Singapore Island; the rest inhabit 54 neighbouring islets.

The Singapore Flyer

The 42-storey Singapore Flyer, the world's biggest observation wheel, which began operation in Feb.08, offers a 360 degree view across the island republic and into neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia. At 165 m., it is 3 m. higher than Britain's London Eye.

History: Modern Singapore was founded in 1819 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company, and later became a British crown colony. It was incor-



porated into the Federation of Malaysia in 1963, but two years later left the federation to become an Independent Republic. The population of Singapore is composite. The Chinese comprise 77%, Malays 15% and Indians 6%. Lee Kuan Yew was PM for 31 years (1959-90). S.R. Nathan, a Singaporean of Indian ethnicity was elected unopposed as the country's sixth president in Aug. '99.

Economy: The country is an entrepot for Malaysia and other southeast Asian states. It is one of the world's largest ports. The chief exports are rubber and tin. Industries include tin smelting, rubber, lumber ship-building, textiles and oil refining. (Singapore is the largest oil refining centre in Asia) machinery, chemical products, food, tourism (7.52 m. tourists in 2001) and banking. Standards in health, education and housing are high. Only about 1.7% of the total area is used for farming. Most food is imported.

On January 1, 1996, Singapore was graduated to the status of a 'developed country' by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In May '97, the four Asian 'tigers' (Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and S.Korea) were added to the industrialised countries by IMF.

eaches, attractive scenery and pleasant climate.

Economy: Agriculture and fishing are major occupations. Chief crops: Coconuts, cinnamon, tea, vanilla and patchouli. **Industry:** Food processing and fishing. Tourism is a major contributor to gross domestic product.

Mission in India: Embassy of Seychelles Stationed at Kuala Lumpur.

Honorary Consulate of Seychelles, Qutab Ambience (at Qutab Minar), H-12/12, Mehrauli Rd, New Delhi-110 030. Tel: 41666123; Fax: 41666126.

E-mail: sbm@bharti.in

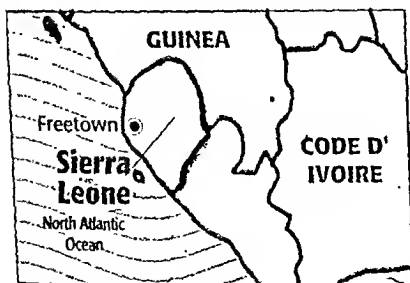
Indian Mission in Seychelles: High Commission of India, Le Chantier, Post Box No. 488, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles. Tel: 00-248-224489; Fax: 00-248-224810.

E-mail: hicomind@seychelles.net

Sierra Leone

(Republic of Sierra Leone)

Capital: Freetown; **Area:** 71,740 sq km; **Population:** 6,294,774; **Languages:** English and tribal; **Religions:** Muslim-60%, indigenous beliefs-30%, Christian-10%; **Literacy:** 35.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 40.93; **p.c.i.:** \$ 800; **HDI rank:**



177; Date of Independence: 27th April, 1961.

Government Type: Constitutional Democracy; **Head of State & Govt:** Ernest Bai Karoma.

History: Sierra Leone (meaning mountain of the lion) was the name originally given to this area by Portuguese sailors mainly on account of the thunder-storms around its coastal peaks. It lies on the West African bulge, between Guinea and Liberia.

Formerly under British rule, Sierra Leone became independent in 1961 and a republic in 1971.

A military coup in May '97 overthrew the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. In March, '98, the junta headed by Lt. Col. Johnny Paul Koroma was ousted by Nigeria - led troops acting in the name of ECOWAS, and President Kabbah was reinstated. In July, a UN military observer mission was authorized by the Security Council. The 70-member team was to help West African peacekeepers to demobilise remnants of the former ruling junta.

The country, after nearly nine years of civil war, lies in ruins today. Nearly 10% of the population have fled to neighbouring countries. In UNDP's list of 174 countries (1999), Sierra Leone was the last. The country lost hundreds of lives in rebellion in May, 2000.

Economy: The economy is based on agriculture and mining. Main crops: Cocoa, coffee, palm kernels, rice, ginger. Minerals: Diamonds, gold and bauxite.

Hundred Days

Hundred Days is the name given to the period between Napoleon's escape from Elba and his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

24101015, 26111075; Fax: 26877941.

E-mail: emb.delhi@mzv.sk

Indian Mission in Slovak Republic:
Embassy of India, Radlinskeho 2, 81002,
Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Tel: 00-421-
7-52931700 (6lines); Fax: 00-421-7-
5361690

E-mail: eindia@computel.sk

Website : www.eindia.sk

155. SLOVENIA

(Republic of Slovenia)

Capital: Ljubljana; **Other Large Cities:** Maribor, Celje, Kranj; **Area:** 20,251 sq.km; **Population:** 2,007,711; **Languages:** Slovenian; **Religions:** Catholic-57.8%, Orthodox-2.3%, other Christian-0.9%, Muslim-2.4%, unaffiliated-3.5%, other or unspecified-23%, none-10.1%; **Literacy:** 99.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 76.73; **p.c.i.:** \$ 27,300; **HDI rank:** 27; **Date of Independence:** 25th June, 1991.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Danilo Turk; **PM:** Janez Jansa.

Ethnic breakdown: Slovenes - 91%, others- 9%.

History: The Slovenes settled in their

current territory in 6th to 8th centuries but fell under German domination in the 9th century. After 1848, the struggle for unification began. In 1918, Yugoslavia



was established, and the majority of the Slovenes entered the new state, which be-

came the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croat and Slovenes. Slovenia, the most affluent Yugoslav republic, declared independence on June 25, 1991. In Feb. 1992 EC granted recognition and in May, it was admitted to the UN. It is Croatia's main ally. Slovenia joined the European Union on May 1, 2004

Economy: Wheat, potatoes, maize, timber, livestock are the agricultural products. Industry: Steel, textiles, electricity, motor vehicles, sulphuric acid, bauxite.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, 46, Poorvi Mar Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. T 4166289141662893; Fax: 41662895.

E-mail: vnd@gov.si

156. Solomon Islands

Capital: Honiara; **Area:** 29,758 km.; **Population:** 581,318; **Languages:** English, Pidgin English, local languages; **Religions:** Church of Melanesia-32.8%, Roman Catholic-19%, Soas Evangelical-17%, Seventh-Day Adventist-11.2%, United Church-10.1%, Christian Fellowship Church-2.4%, of Christian-4.4%, other-2.4%, unspecified-0.3%, none-0.2%; **Literacy:** 5-

World Book Capital

Slovenian capital Ljubljana has been chosen as the 2010 World Book Capital by UNESCO as part of its efforts to promote literature and reading.

Mission in India: Singapore High Commission, E-6, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 46000800, 46061420, 46000915; Fax: 46016413.

E-mail: singhc_del@sgmfa.gov.sg;
Web: www.mfa.gov.sg/newdelhi

Consulate: Consulate General of the Singapore in Mumbai: 101, 10th Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Jammnalal Bajaj Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021; Ph: 001-91 (22) 22043205, 001-91 (22) 22043209

E-mail: MFA_Mumbai@mga.gov.sg
Indian Mission in Singapore: High Commission of India, "India House", 31, Grange Road, P.O. Box No. 92, Singapore-912304. Tel: 00-65-67376777; Fax: 00-65-67326909.

E-mail: indiahc@pacific.net.sg
Website: <http://www.embassyofindia.com>

Slovakia

(Slovensko)

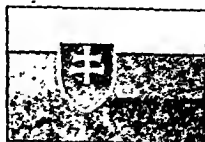
Capital: Bratislava; **Other Large Cities:** Banska, Bystrica, Zilina; **Area:** 49,036 Sq. km; **Population:** 5,455,407; **Languages:** Slovak, Magyar; **Religions:** Ro-



man Catholic-68.9%, Protestant-10.8%, Greek Catholic-4.1%, other or unspecified -3.2%, none-13%; **Literacy:** 99.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.17; **p.c.i.:** \$ 19,800; **HDI rank:** 42; **Date of Independence:** 1st January, 1993.

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** Ivan Gasparovic; **PM:** Robert Fico.

History: The Czechoslovak federal republic was dissolved on Dec. 31, 1992, and the two new republics of Czech and Slovakia were born on Jan. 1, 1993. (See Czech Republic for details).



Slovakia is bounded by Poland, Ukraine, Czech republic, Austria and Hungary.

In the former Czechoslovakia, Slovakia was less industrialised than the Czech land.

Economy: Wheat, barley, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, sugarbeet are the main agricultural products. In 1993, agriculture produced 20% of GDP.

Industry: Metallurgy, engineering, chemical, textile, glass. Main exports are chemicals, plastics, tractors and electronics items. **Minerals:** Coal, magnetite, metallic ore.

The Danube is the most important river. The underground ice and icicle caves are great tourist attractions, one of the largest being the Demanovska Cave of Freedom.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 50-M, Niti Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021. Tel:

Childhood end at Age 11

A recent survey shows that over half of British parents think childhood is over by the age of 11. Almost three quarters of parents allow children to drink alcohol before they are 18.

1 years of one-man rule. Somalia has been ruled by feud-ing warloads since the overthrow of Siad Barre.

Ali Mahdi Muhammad (United Somali Congress) became President in Aug. 1991. Interfactional fighting continued.

A new coalition government under the chairmanship of Gen. Muhammad Farah Aidid agreed to a UN military presence to back up relief efforts to help famine victims (estimated at 1.5 to 2m.). In Dec. '92, leaders of two of the 14 warring factions, Ali Mahdi Muhammad and Muhammad Farah Aidid, agreed to a peace plan under the aegis of the U.N.

In March, '94, the last of the 30,000 American troops who had landed in Dec. '92 left Somalia, closing a chapter in the costliest humanitarian venture in UN history. A peace accord was signed in June, '94 by 19 Somali leaders, but violence continued. In July, '96 there was heavy fighting between Gen. Aidid's forces and the opposing alliance of self-styled interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed. Gen. Aidid died in August. Armed factions controlled different parts of the country. President Abdiasim Salat Hassan and 245 legislators were elected in August, 2000 at a peace conference in Djibouti.

It is estimated that the war and the famine have killed at least 350,000 Somalis. UN said in Aug. '99 that a "black-hole of anarchy" prevailed in Somalia.

In Somaliland, an unrecognised state, independent from Somalia since 1991, a huge majority voted in favour of independence from the rest of Somalia, in

2000. Rival militias fought for the ports of Kismayo and Bossaso. After 1991, clan-based factional fighting reduced the country into battling fiefdoms ruled by heavily armed militias. Puntland, unrecognised like Somaliland, declared independence from Somalia in 1998.

Economy: Sugarcane, bananas, sorghum, maize are the main crops.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Somalia, A-7, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024. Tel: 24619559, 24617453. Telex : 31-65010 ESDR IN

158. South Africa

(Republic of South Africa)

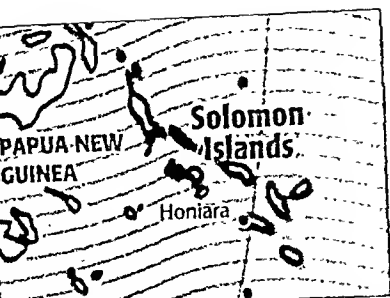
Capital: Pretoria (administrative); Cape Town (legislative); Bloemfontein (judicial); **Other Large Cities:** Durban, Johannesburg; **Area:** 1,223,201 sq km; **Population:** 43,786,115; **Languages:** Afrikaans, English and 9 other languages; **Religions:** Zion Christian-11.%, Pentecostal/Charismatic-8.2%, Catho-



lic-7.1%, Methodist-6.8%, Dutch Reformed-6.7%, Anglican-3.8%, other

Rastafarians

The Caribbean religious movement Rastafarianism looks to Ethiopia as their spiritual home. That was the only part of Africa not to be colonised permanently. Ras Tafari was the name of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I. Reggae is the Rastafarians' music.



Life Expectancy: 73.44; **p.c.i.:** \$ 6,00;
HDI rank: 129; **Date of Independence:** 7th July, 1978

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Gov. Gen.:** Nathaniel Waeana.; **PM:** Derek Sikua.

History: The Solomon Islands are in the South West Pacific and lie to the east of Papua New Guinea. Originally a British Protectorate, it achieved independence in 1978. It is a constitutional monarchy with the British Sovereign as Head of State.



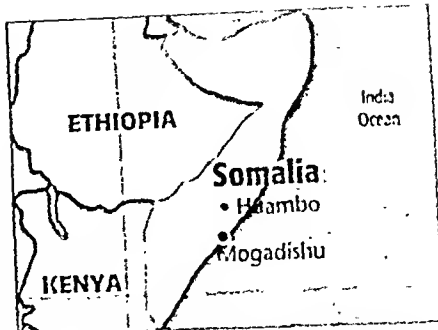
The population is predominantly Melanesian.

Economy: Copra is the main cash crop and rice the chief food crop. Other crops: Bananas, yams. Industry: Fish canning, rice milling, food, tobacco. Fish is a vital element in food and an export item.

157. Somalia

(Somalia Democratic Republic)

Capital: Mogadishu; **Other Large Cities:** Hargeisa, Baidoa, Burao; **Area:**



637,657 sq km; Population: 9,558,666;
Languages: Somali, Arabic, English, Italian; **Religions:** Sunni Muslim; **Literacy:** 37.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 49.25; **p.c.i.:** \$ 600; **Date of Independence:** 1st July, 1960.

Government Type: In transition; **President:** Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed; **PM:** Nur "Adde" Hassan Hussein.

History: A republic in the Horn of Africa, Somali Democratic Republic was formed by the union of the former Italian Somaliland and the British Somaliland on July 1, 1960. Somalia is essentially a pastoral country, with 80% of people depending on livestock-rearing. It has 40.1 m livestock. Half the population is nomadic.



The year 1992 saw one of the worst famines in Somalia. Ravaged by civil war, the country was in a state of anarchy. Starvation threatened 50% of the population. Over 800,000 fled to Kenya. Relief efforts were hampered by battles between rival clan factions. In Jan., 1991 President Siad Barre was toppled, ending

The Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa, the continent's most easterly point, consists of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.

include heavy engineering, chemicals, textiles, steel, plastic and food processing.

South Africa is the only country in the world which, having exploded a nuclear device with US collaboration renounced the nuclear path subsequently and signed both NPT and CTBT. The Truth Commission (1995) headed by Desmond Tutu investigated human rights abuses under apartheid and a report was submitted.

On July 18, 1998, Nelson Mandela married Graca Machel. He retired in June, '99. Thabo Mbeki took over on June 16.

Mission in India: High Commission of the Republic of South Africa, B 18, Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057, Tel: 2614 9411-19; Fax: 2614 3605.

E-mail: immigration.section@gmail.com (Visa); highcommissioner@sahc-india.com (High Commissioner).

Website: www.sahc-india.com

Indian Mission in South Africa:

High Commission of India, 852, Schoeman Street, Arcadia-0083, Pretoria, South Africa. Tel: 00-27-12-3425392; Fax: 00-27-12-3425310. E-mail: dhc@iafrica.com

Spain

(Espana)

Capital: Madrid; **Other Large Cities:** Barcelona, Valencia, Seville; **Area:** 504,750 sq km; **Population:** 40,491,051; **Languages:** Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Galician; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-94%, others-6%; **Literacy:** 97.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 79.92; **p.c.i.:** \$ 33,700; **HDI rank:** 13; **Date of Independence:**



1492.

Government Type: Parliamentary Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Juan Carlos I. **PM:** Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

History: With the discovery of America for Spain by Columbus in 1492, Spain became a great colonial empire.



After the defeat of the Spanish Armada by England in 1588, Spain shrunk into a minor continental power.

In 1939, it passed under the dictatorship of Gen. Franco. On Franco's death in 1975, Spain became a constitutional monarchy. In 1981, there was an unsuccessful coup attempt. The Socialist Workers' Party won four consecutive general elections from 1982 to '93. In 1996, a coalition of conservative and regional parties came to power. Spain is one of the 25 members of the European Union.

In 1980, Catalonia and the Basque country were given autonomy. Basque extremists have continued their campaign for independence. The moderate nationalist Basque party, PNV emerged

The Story of Guernica

Picasso painted his famous work Guernica in protest at the bombing of civilians in the Spanish Civil War.

ading to her imposing several harsh socialist measures. By the 1977 general election, a country tired of endemic scarcities and rising prices swept her out of office.

The United National Party (UNP) administration of Prime Minister Junius Jayewardene which took over, replaced the 1972 constitution and Jayewardene assumed unprecedented power as executive president, becoming both head of state and head of government. He was elected to a second six-year term in October 1982, and in a referendum won a mandate to extend parliament to 1989. In late 1988, former prime minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was elected executive president for a 6-year term.

The Tamils in Sri Lanka have been fighting for more power for over a decade. In 1978, some concessions such as the recognition of the Tamil language were made. TULF -Tamil United Liberation Front-spearheaded the agitation. Later more militant organisations like the LTTE-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam-and EPRLF-Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front joined the struggle. More than 54,000 have died in the civil war.

On 29 July 1987, however, an important breakthrough was made when President Jayawardene and the Indian PM, Rajiv Gandhi signed an accord regarding a settlement of the country's ethnic crisis. Accordingly an IPKF-Indian Peacekeeping Force-was sent to the island to end the hostilities and supervise surrender of arms. After a long period of bloody military operation, the IPKF started pulling out its forces on Sept. 20, 1989.

In November, Parliament adopted the legislation establishing provincial councils. In the election held in the North Eastern Province under the Peace Plan, Varadaraja Perumal of EPRLF became Chief Minister.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa lifted the emergency after more than 5½ years on January 11, 1989 and general elections were held in February. United National Party won and the former Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge was appointed Prime Minister.

President R. Premadasa, 69, was assassinated by a suicide bomber on May 1, 1993 and the Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, 71, was elected President. Ranil Wickremasinghe was appointed Prime Minister.

Parliamentary elections were held on 19 August 1994, and Chandrika Kumaratunga formed the government.

After the Presidential elections of 9 Nov., Chandrika Kumaratunga became President. Under the new government, her mother Sirimavo Bandaranaike was made Prime Minister. Mrs. Bandaranaike died on Oct. 10, 2000.

War between northern Tamil separatists and govt. forces continued, in spite of a ceasefire of Jan. 3, 1995. In Jan. '98, the govt. outlawed LTTE. Jaffna Mayor Ms. Sarojini Yogeswaran was assassinated by LTTE in May. In Aug., the public emergency was extended to all over Sri Lanka.

Economy: Sri Lanka's predominantly rural population is concentrated in the west, south and south-west regions, where rubber, tea and coconuts are

Food inflation Highest in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka witnessed the highest increase at 25.6% in food prices in 2007-08, according to a joint OECD-FAO report. The increase was 24.6% in Kenya, 23.3% in China and only 5.8% in India.

triumphant in May, 2001 elections in Basque province. Basque voters made it clear that they neither favour ETA's terror campaign nor approve of Govt's no-dialogue stand.

Economy: The economy (\$828 b.) is the ninth largest in the world. Contribution of farming and fishing to overall GDP is about 4% only (This was 65% in the 60s), industry contributes 31%, and services 65%.

Main crops are cereals, grapes, olives, vegetables and fruits. Industries include chemicals, machine tools, automobiles, ship-building, steel, textiles and processed foods, paper, cement.

Mission in India: Embassy of Spain, 12, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi-110011. Tel: 4129 3000; Fax: 4129 3020.

E-mail: embispain@vsnl.com

Consulate: Mumbai: Tel: 22874797, Fax: 22043625; Calcutta: Tel: (033)2469 283, Fax: (033)2469 1283; Chennai: Tel: (044)2812 8800, Fax: (044)2811 7411.

Indian Mission in Spain: Embassy of India, Avenida Pio XII 30-32, 28016, Madrid, Spain. Tel: 00-34-911-3450406, 3450265; Fax: 00-34-91-3451112 (Embassy).

E-mail: comind@accessnet.es

Website: <http://www.visualware.es/india>

CEYLON

(Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka), Sri Lanka Prajathanthrika
Samarajati Janarajaya

Capital: Colombo, Other Large Cities: Kandy, Jaffna, Galle, Area: 65,610

sq.km.; Population: 21,128,773. Languages: Sinhala, Tamil & English. Religions: Buddhist-69.1%, Muslim-7.4%, Hindu-7.1%, Christian-4.2%, Unaffiliated-10% Literacy: 90.7%. Life Expectancy: 74.97; p.e.h. 3,410. HDI rank: 99; Date of Independence: 4 February, 1948.



Government Type: Republic. President: Mahinda Rajapaksa, prime minister: Sri Wickremesinghe

Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean about 80 km east of the southern tip of India.

History: Known to the ancient world as Taprobane and later as Serendip, the island was also known as Lanka, Sinhala Deepa and Seelan at different times. Until 1972, it was Ceylon. The country became independent on 4 February 1948 and on 22 May the Republic of Sri Lanka was created.

Before the new constitution promulgated in 1978, the first president was Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the first woman PM. Under the new constitution, the president is elected for a five-year term.



From Loolacardona to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is known for some of the best tea in the world. The first man planted the first saplings in Loolacardona. When the island's coffee plantations, tea cultivation was introduced in 1826.

72.93; p.c.i.: \$ 8,200; **HDI rank:** 54; **Date of Independence:** 19th September, 1983.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Gov. Gen.:** Cuthbert M. Sebastian. **PM:** Dr. Denzil Douglas.

History: St. Christopher (Kitts)-Nevis is two islands in East Caribbean separated by a narrow



channel 3.2 km wide. The islands were given the status of an Associate State of the U.K.

in 1967 and became independent on Sept. 19, 1983. At that time Anguilla was part of St. Kitts-Nevis. The Anguillians revolted against this arrangement and Anguilla was separated. Nevis has the right of secession.

In August, '98, the 62% of people of Nevis (population: 9000) voted in favour of leaving the federation, but failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed for secession.

The population is mostly black.

Economy: The economy is agricultural, cotton and sugar being the principal crops. Industries: Sugar, construction, clothing, tourism.

162. St. Lucia

Capital: Castries; **Area:** 616 sq km; **Population:** 172,884; **Languages:** English and French patois; **Literacy:** 80%; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-67.5%, Seventh Day Adventist-8.5%, Pentecostal-5.7%, Anglican-2%, Evangelical-2%, other Christian-5.1%, Rastafarian-2.1%, other-1.1%, unspecified-

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History: St. Lucia, in Eastern Caribbean, is the second largest island in



the Windward group. Volcanic in origin. St. Lucia was ceded to Britain by France

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163. St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Capital: Kingstown; **Area:** 388 sq km; **Population:** 118,432; **Languages:** English and French Patois; **Religion:** Anglican-47%, Methodist-28%, Roman Catholic-13%, Hindu, Seventh-Day Adventist, Other Protestant; **Literacy:** 96%; **Life Expectancy:** 74.34; p.c.i.: \$ 3,600; **HDI rank:** 93; **Date of Independence:** 27th October, 1979.

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History: One of the Windward Islands, west of Barbados, St. Vincent

Casa Branca

The Moroccan seaport Casablanca, founded by the Portuguese was named Casa Branca, which meant 'White House'.

grown. About one-half of the working population are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and only agriculture provides 21% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Of the total area of 6,561,000 hectares, about 2m. hectares are under cultivation. Agriculture engages about 45% of the labour force. The main crops are paddy, rubber, tea and coconuts.

In 1978, Sri Lanka was the world's largest exporter of tea, when tea, rubber and coconut together contributed about 70% of total export earnings. This position gradually declined. However, early 1990s showed signs of revival. The 1993-97 plan aimed at a 6.4% annual growth rate. The main industries are food, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing and leather goods, chemicals, petroleum, rubber and plastics. Principal exports are tea, rubber, copra, coconut oil and desiccated coconut, textiles garments, precious and semi-precious stones. Gems are among the chief minerals mined and exported. Principal imports are petroleum, machinery and equipment, vehicles transport equipment and food and beverages.

Experimental television broadcasting began in April 1979. Roopavahini, national television network was established, with stations at Mount Pidurutalaya, Kokavil and Kandy, from which broadcasting began in December 1982.

Mission in India: High Commission for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 27-Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021. Tel. 010201-03; Fax:23793604.

E-mail:lankacom@del2.vsnl.net.in

Deputy High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 196, T.T.K. Road, Alwarpet, Chennai- 600 018. Tel. 4987896, 4987612; Fax: 4987894.

India: Mumbai

E-mail:sldehico@md3.vsnl.net.in

Consulate: Consulate General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, "Sri Lanka House", 34 Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400 023, India. Tel: 2045861, 204803; Fax: 2876132

E-mail: slcon@bom5.vsnl.net.in

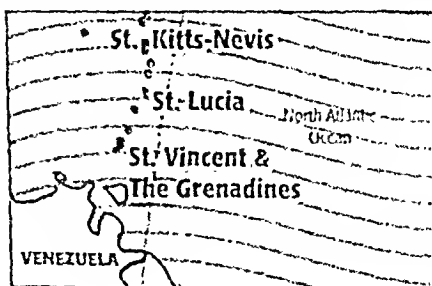
Indian Mission in Sri Lanka: High Commission of India, 36-38, Galle Road, P.O.Box No. 882, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka. Tel: 00-94-11-2327587, 2422788, 2421605 Fax: 00-94-11-2446403, 2448166.

E-mail:hc.colombo@mea.gov.in

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

(Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis)

Capital: Basseterre; **Area:** 269 sq km; **Population:** 39,619; **Languages:** English and Patois; **Religions:** Anglican, Other Protestant, Roman Catholic; **Literacy:** 97.8%; **Life Expectancy:**



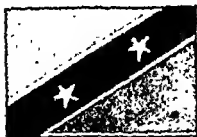
Non-OPEC Oil Producers

Seven of the 14 countries that produce more than 2,000,000 barrels of oil are outside the OPEC. These are USA, UK, Russia, China, Mexico, Canada & Norway.

72.93; p.c.i.: \$ 8,200; HDI rank: 54; Date of Independence: 19th September, 1983.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Gov. Gen.:** Cuthbert M. Sebastian. **PM:** Dr. Denzil Douglas.

History: St. Christopher (Kitts)-Nevis is two islands in East Caribbean separated by a narrow



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The population is mostly black.

Economy: The economy is agricultural, cotton and sugar being the principal crops. Industries: Sugar, construction, clothing, tourism.

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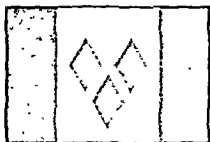
Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Gov. Gen:** Sir Fredrick Nathaniel Ballantyne; **PM:** Ralph E. Gonsalves.

History: One of the Windward Islands, west of Barbados, St. Vincent

Casa Branca

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became a British Associated State in 1969 and achieved independence on Oct. 27, 1979.



St. Vincent (345 sq.km.), chief island of the chain, is dominated by the volcano La Soufriere. It erupted in 1979). The Grenadines is a chain of islets with a total area of 43 sq.km.

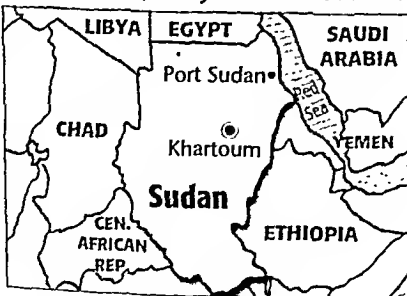
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164. Sudan

(Republic of the Sudan)
Jumhuriyat as-Sudan

Capital: Khartoum; **Other Large Cities:** Omdurman, Port Sudan; **Area:** 2,505,813 sq km; **Population:** 40,218,455; **Languages:** Arabic, English, Dinka, Nubian etc.; **Religions:** Sunni Muslim-70% (in the north), indigenous beliefs-25%, Christian-5% (mostly in the south and



in Khartoum); **Literacy:** 61.1 %; **Life Expectancy:** 50.28; **p.c.i.:** 2,500; **HDI rank:** 147; **Date of Independence:** 1st January, 1956.

Government Type: Republic with strong military influence; **Head of State and Govt (President):** Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

History: The Sudan, the largest African country, is a republic in north east Africa. The



White Nile flows through the middle of the country and joins the Blue Nile at Khartoum. Sudan became a sovereign independent republic in Jan., 1956.

The 12 northern provinces are predominantly Arab-Muslim, and the 3 southern provinces are populated largely by Christians and animists.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) (the mainstream rebel group which has been fighting for 16 years to free mainly Christian and animist south Sudan from domination by Islamic, Arabised north) maintains guerrilla activities in the south. 1.5m. people have been dead from violence and famine.

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Lagoon of Miracles

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Casa Branca

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The population is of mixed origin: European-Negro and Carib-Indian.

Economy: Bananas, arrowroot, copra, sea island cotton and spices are the main products. Industry: Food-processing, electronic equipment assembly, garments, tourism.

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(Republic of the Sudan)
Jumhuriyat as-Sudan

Capital: Khartoum; **Other Large Cities:** Omdurman, Port Sudan; **Area:** 2,505,813 sq km; **Population:** 40,218,455; **Languages:** Arabic, English, Dinka, Nubian etc.; **Religions:** Sunni Muslim-70% (in the north), indigenous beliefs-25%, Christian-5% (mostly in the south and



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In Chilica, Peru there is a 'Lagoon of Miracles' where people apply mud on their bodies from a medicinal pond. The Lagoon with its distinct greenish colour and the mud ponds that surround it is said to cure everything from acne to rheumatism.

in their fight with the north. Peace talks in Addis Ababa failed in August.

Economy: The main agricultural crop is sorghum is the country's staple food and cotton is the most important cash crop and main export. Other products include gum arabic (world's principal producer), sugarcane, sesame, peanuts, dates, hides and skins, chillies, beans and corn. Forests cover about one-fifth of the land area, and most productive woodland is state-owned. Sudan's mineral wealth includes copper, gold, iron and oil. Industry: Textiles, food processing.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Sudan, Plot No.3, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 26873785, 26873185; Fax: 26883758.

E-mail: embsudin@yahoo.co.in

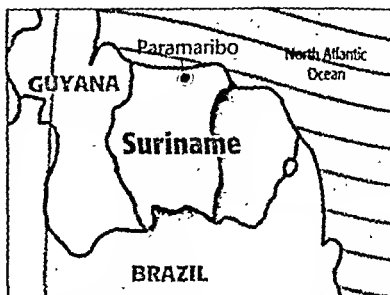
Indian Mission in Sudan: Embassy of India, P.O. Box 707, 61- Africa Road, Khartoum-II, Sudan. Tel: 00-249-11-451202, 451031; Fax: 00-249-11-472266.

E-mail: indembsdn@yahoo.com/india2 sudan@yahoo.com

163. Suriname

(Republic of Suriname)

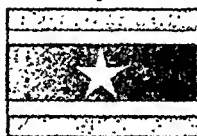
Capital: Paramaribo; **Area:** 163,820 sq km; **Population:** 475,996; **Languages:** Dutch, English, Hindi, Sranantongo (Suri-nameese) and Javanese; **Religions:** Hindu-27.4%, Muslim-19.6%, Roman Catholic-22.8%, Protestant-25.2% (predominantly Moravian), indigenous beliefs-5%; **Literacy:** 89.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.48; **p.c.i.:** \$ 7,800; **HDI rank:**



85; Date of Independence: 25th November, 1975.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Ronald Venetiaan; **Vice President & PM:** Ram Sardjoe

History: Suriname, formerly Dutch Guyana, lies on the north east coast of South America. It became independent in 1975.



A Military Council came to power in 1982. In 1987 civilian rule was restored. Political turmoil continued, with its adverse effects on the economy.

A boundary dispute between Suriname and Guyana flared in June, 2000.

Ethnic groups: Creole 35%; Indian 33%; Javanese 16% Bushnegroes (Blacks) 10%; Amerindian 3%.

Economy: The economy is very dependent on exports and imports. Much of the land is given to rice cultivation, managed by Hindustanis. The country is rich in bauxite. Bauxite, alumina and aluminium constitute nearly 80% of the exports. Industry: Aluminium, processed foods, lumber.

A Kingdom

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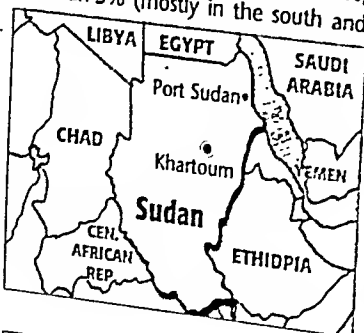
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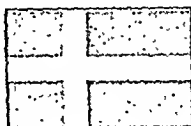
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mud ponds that surround it is said to cure everything from acne to rheumatism.



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Carl XVI Gustaf. **PM:** Fredrik Reinfeldt.

History: Sweden which occupies the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula, is the largest of the Nordic countries and in terms of area, the fourth largest country in Europe. Mountains cover 25% of the country. A constitutional monarchy since 1434, Sweden is the world's first widely comprehensive welfare state. Stockholm is known as "Beauty on the Sea".



Economy: Sweden has rich natural supplies of coniferous forest, water power, iron ore and uranium.

Highly industrialised, Sweden today exports 40% of its industrial production. Major industries: Steel, machinery, instruments, autos, ship building and paper. Main crops: Grains, potatoes, sugar beets and dairy products. Forests (half the country) yield 16% of exports.

Sweden entered the EU on Jan. 1, 1995 but decided against joining NATO.

In 2000, Sweden voted in favour of

adopting euro as its currency.

Mission in India: Embassy of Sweden, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 24197100; Fax: 26885401, 26885540.

E-mail: ambassaden.new-delhi@foreign.ministry.se; Web: www.swedenabroad.se/newdelhi

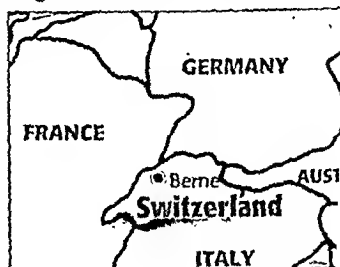
Indian Mission in Sweden: Embassy of India, Adolf Fredriks Kyrkoga 12, Box 1340, 111 83 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: 00-468-107008; Fax: 00-46 248505.

E-mail: information@indianembassy



(Swiss Confederation)

Capital: Berne; **Other Large Cities:** Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Lausanne; **Area:** 41,293 sq.km.; **Population:** 7,581,500; **Languages:** German, French, Italian and Romansch; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-41.8%, Protestant-35.3%, other Christian-1.8%, other Christian-0.4%, Muslim-4.3%, other-1%, unspecified-4.3%, non-religious-11.1%; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 80.74; **p.c.i.:** \$ 39,800; **rank:** 7; **Date of Independence:** August, 1291.



Railway Tunnels in the Alps

Travelling time through the Alps was reduced by upto 70 per cent with the construction of four railway tunnels in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These were The Frejus, St. Gotthard, Simplon and Lotschberg tunnels.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Suriname, C-15, Malcha Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110 021; Tel: 5888435, 26888454; Fax: 26888450. E-mail: embsurnd123@rediffmail.com

Indian Mission in Suriname: Embassy of India, 10, Rode Kruislaan, Post Box No. 1329, Paramaribo, Suriname. Tel: 00-597-498344, 498018; Fax: 00-597-491106.

E-mail: ambindia@sr.net/india@sr.net.

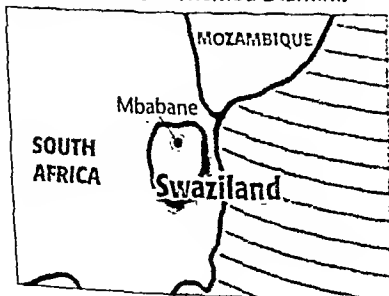
166. Swaziland

(Kingdom of Swaziland)

Umbuso weSwatini

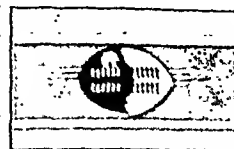
Capital: Mbabane; **Other Large Cities:** Lobamba, Manzini; **Area:** 17,363 sq km; **Population:** 1,128,814; **Languages:** English and Swazi; **Religions:** Zionist (a combination of Christianity and indigenous ancestral worship) -40%, Roman Catholic-20%, Muslim-10%; **Literacy:** 81.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 31.99; **Currency:** Lilangeni (pl.-emalangeni) (\$1=7.034); **p.c.i.:** \$4,800; **HDI rank:** 141; **Date of Independence:** 6th September, 1968.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Mswati III. **PM:** Absdom Themba Dlamini.



Swaziland is surrounded almost entirely by South Africa. Mozambique to the east is its only other neighbour.

History: Swaziland, formerly a British protectorate, attained independence on Sept. 6, 1968. In 1973, the king assumed full powers. Political parties were banned in 1978. The 1990s saw moves towards a multiparty system.



The royal house of Swaziland is one of Africa's last ruling dynasties. The population is homogenous, of Nguni descent.

Economy: Sugar is the principal item in the economy, with citrus fruits, cotton, rice and maize, coming next. But the main wealth of the Swazis is cattle. There are considerable mineral reserves, especially, asbestos, iron and coal. **Industry:** Wood pulp, cotton ginning and meat processing.

Mission in India: Embassy of Swaziland Stationed at Kuala Lumpur.

167. Sweden

Kingdom of Sweden

Konungariket Sverige

Capital: Stockholm; **Other Large Cities:** Göteborg, Malmö, Uppsala; **Area:** 449,793 sq km; **Population:** 9,145,333; **Languages:** Swedish; **Religions:** Lutheran-87%, Roman Catholic, Catholics, Baptist, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist; **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 80.74; **p.c.i.:** \$36,950; **HDI rank:** 6; **Date of Independence:** 6th June, 1523

The Longest non-stop Flight

The largest non-stop flight by a bird is made by a sooty tern, the frigatebird godwit, between Alaska and New Zealand. The distance is 7,100 miles.

Lal Bajaj Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021, Tel: +91 22-22884563-5/22831738, E-mail: vertretung@mum.rep.admin.ch

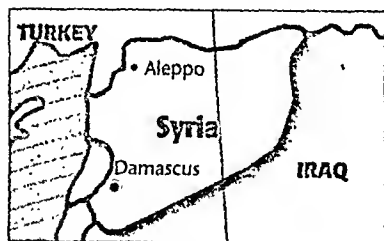
Indian Mission in Switzerland: Embassy of India, Kirchenfeldstrasse 28, Postfach 406, CH-3000, Berne-6, Switzerland. Tel: 00-41-31-3511110; Fax: 00-41-31-3511557.

E-mail: india@spectraweb.ch

169. Syria

(Syrian Arab Republic)

Capital: Damascus; **Other Large Cities:** Aleppo, Homs, Hama; **Area:** 185,180 sq.km.; **Population:** 19,747,586; **Languages:** Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian; **Religions:** Sunni Muslim-74%, Alawite, Druze, and other Muslim sects-16%, Christian (various sects)-10%, Jewish; **Literacy:** 79.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.90; **p.c.i.:** \$ 4,500; **HDI rank:** 108; **Date of Independence:** 17th April, 1946.



Government Type: Republic (under military regime); **President:** Bashar al Azad. **PM:** Muhammad Naji al-Otari.

The Syrian Arab Republic in West Asia lies at the eastern end of the Mediter-

anean Sea. The Orontes and Euphrate rivers pass through Syria. The chief sea port is Latakia.

History: Syria, the seat of an ancient civilization, became a fully independent sovereign republic in 1946.

Syria joined with Egypt in 1958 in the United Arab Republic but seceded in 1961. Principal towns are Damascus, Aleppo and Homs.

Syria has been involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1948. Syria's negotiations with Israel haven't made much headway.

Economy: Agriculture and cattle-breeding comprise the major occupations of the people. The chief crops are cotton, wheat, tobacco and olives. Minerals: Oil, phosphate, gypsum. Industries include oils, soap, textiles, leather, tobacco, sugar and glassware.

Mission in India: Embassy of Syrian Arab Republic, D-5/8, Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057. Tel: 26140233; Telefax: 26143107.

Indian Mission in Syria: Embassy of India, 4046, Adnan Malki Street, Yassin Nouwelati Building, P.O. Box 685, Damascus, Syria. Tel: 00-963-11-3739081/83; Fax: 00-963-11-3316703.

E-mail: indembasy@cyberia.net.lb

170. Tajikistan

(Republic of Tajikistan)

Capital: Dushanbe; **Other Large Cities:** Khudzand, Kulyab; **Area:** 143,100

The Four-mile Long Painting

The world's largest painting 'The Wave', by Croatian Djuro Siroglavic, which is more than four miles long and weighs six tonnes, has been cut up and sold in pieces for children's charities.

guages: Kiswahili and English; **Religions:** Mainland-Christian-30%, Muslim-35%, indigenous beliefs-35%, Zanzibar-99% Muslim; **Literacy:** 69.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 51.45; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,100; **HDI rank:** 159; **Date of Independence:** 26th April, 1964

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Jakaya Kikwete.

History: The United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar was constituted on April 26, 1964 (named Tanzania on Oct. 29), when the Republic of Tanganyika in East Africa and the island Republic of Zanzibar ('the Isle of Cloves'), off the coast of Tanganyika, joined into a single nation.

Three of Africa's best-known lakes-Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa-and Mount Kilimanjaro - the highest in Africa - are in Tanzania.

President Julius K. Nyerere dominated Tanzanian politics until he resigned in 1985. In 1967, the government set on a socialist course, and nationalised banks and many industries. The country firmly abandoned socialist policies and switched over to a market-based system more than 14 years ago. Privatisation of the economy was undertaken in the 1990s. The process of economic recovery, however, has been painfully slow.

Economy: The economy is agricultural. The chief cash crops are sisal, sugarcane, cotton, tea, tobacco and

coffee. Cloves are grown on the islands, chiefly in Pemba. Livestock is extensively raised. Diamonds are an important export. Other minerals include gold, tin and salt. Industry: Food processing and clothing.

Mission in India: High Commission for the United Republic of Tanzania, EP-15C, Diplomatic Enclave, Chaanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021; Tel: 2412 2864; Fax: 2412 2862.

E-mail: tanzrep@del2.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in Tanzania: High Commission of India, NIC Investment House, Samora Avenue, 7th & 8th Floor, Wing 'A', P.O. Box 2684, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Tel: 00-255-22-2117175; Fax: 00-255-22-2118761/2116551.

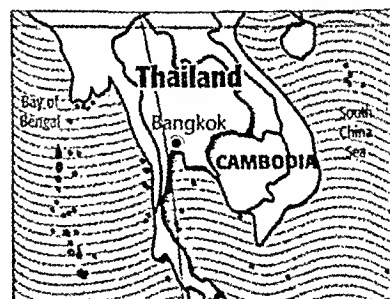
E-mail: hcitz@cats.net.com

172 Thailand

(Kingdom of Thailand)

Muang Thai or Prathet Thai

Capital: Bangkok; **Other Large Cities:** Songkhla, Chiang Mai; **Area:** 513,115 sq.km.; **Population:** 65,493,298; **Languages:** Thai, Lao, Chinese, English



The Golden Cowrie

The shell of the marine snail 10 cm. golden cowrie was traditionally worn by royalty on Pacific Islands. The money cowrie, a 2.5 cm- yellow species has been used as currency in several parts of the world including Africa.

sq.km.; **Population:** 7,211,884; **Languages:** Tadjhik, Russian; **Religions:** Sunni Muslim-85%, Shi'a Muslim-5%; **Literacy:** 99.5%; **Life Expectancy:** 64.97; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,600; **HDI rank:** 122; **Date of Independence:** 9th September, 1991.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Imamali Rakhmonov; **PM:** Akil Aki-
lov.

History: A former Soviet republic that became independent in 1991, Tajikistan is bordered by Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, China and Afghanistan.



People who speak an Iranian dialect similar to Persian are considered to be the descendants of the original Aryan population of Turkestan.

In Nov. '92, Parliament voted to abolish presidency and instal a parliamentary republic. A pro-communist regime came in Jan. '93. In Nov. '94, a constitution establishing a presidential system was approved. Muslim rebels continued to fight the regime.

In June '97, government and opposition leaders signed a peace treaty ending five

years of bloody civil war. In August, fighting was reported among pro-government warlords. Russia supported President Rakhmonov.

Economy: Farming, horticulture and cattle breeding are the main occupations. Products: Grain, potatoes, vegetable, fruit, grapes, meat, milk, eggs, wool, cotton. Natural resources: Brown coal, lead, zinc, oil, uranium, radium, arsenic. Industry: Mining, engineering, food, textile, clothing, silk, bricks, ferroconcrete, knitwear, footwear.

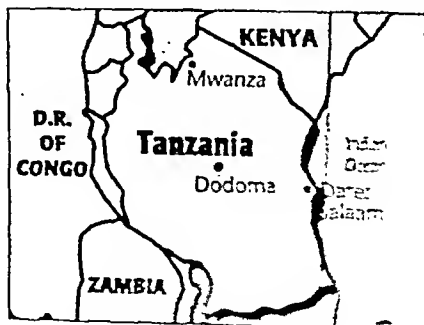
Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan, E-12/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 261 54282, 4601 2099; Fax: 261 54282.

Indian Mission in Tajikistan: Embassy of India, 45, Bukhoro Street (Formerly Sveridenko Street), Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Tel: 00-992-372-217172, 21 1803; Fax: 00-992-372-510045, 510035.

171. Tanzania

(United Republic of Tanzania)

Capital: Dodoma; **Other Large Cities:** Dar es Salaam, Mwanza; **Area:** 945,087 sq.km.; **Population:** 40,213,162; **Lan-**



The Threat from Greenland's Ice Sheet

The vast expanses of glaciers in Greenland are massed 3.1 miles deep on average. They contain enough water to raise sea levels worldwide by 23 feet.

Religions: indigenous beliefs-51%, Christian-29%, Muslim-20%; **Literacy:** 60.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 58.28; **p.c.i.:** 1900; **HDI rank:** 152; **Date of Independence:** 27th April, 1960.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Faure Gnassingbe; **PM:** Komlan Mallo.

History: The Republic of Togo, formerly Togoland, lies on the west coast of Africa forming a narrow strip stretching from the Gulf of Guinea north to Burkina Faso. Gained independence on Apr. 27, 1960. The first multi-party elections were held in 1994. In '98, President Eyadema was re-elected.

Economy: The principal products are coffee, cocoa, cotton, palm kernels, kapok and groundnuts. Togo's considerable natural resources are still largely undeveloped. Phosphates, now being mined in increasing quantities, form the country's principal export. Industry: Textiles, shoes, handicrafts, agricultural processing.

The 36th summit of Organisation of African Unity was held in Lome in July, 2000.

Mission in India: Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Togo, T & T Motors Ltd., 212, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III, New Delhi-110 020; Tel: 26821005-06; Fax: 6821013.

E-mail: tnntalwar@vsnl.net and tandt@ndf.vsnl.net.in

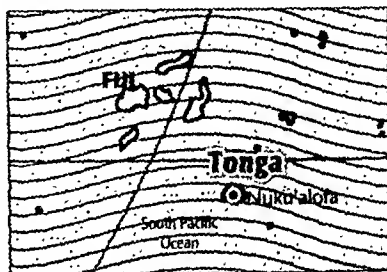


174. Tonga

(Kingdom of Tonga)

Puleanga Fakaktui O Tonga

Capital: Nuku'alofa; **Area:** 748 sq.km.; **Population:** 119,009; **Languages:** English and Tongan; **Religions:** Christian; **Literacy:** 98.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 70.44; **p.c.i.:** \$ 2,200; **HDI rank:** 55; **Date of Independence:** 4th June, 1970.



Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King George Tupou V. **PM:** Feleti Sevele.

History: Tonga (also called Friendly Islands) consists of 169 islands and islets in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The Tropic of Capricorn and the

International Dateline cross each other very near Tonga.

First visited by the Dutch in early 17th century, Tonga became a British protectorate in 1900 and independent on June 4, 1970. The island country was admitted to the United Nations in Sep 1999.

Exploring Undersea Volcanoes

The world's deepest undersea volcanoes are to be explored by a British team equipped with a new unmanned robot submarine. The volcanic rift lies over 5000 metres down in the Cayman Trough beneath the Caribbean.

and Malay; **Religions:** Buddhist-94.6%, Muslim-4.6%, Christian-0.7%, others-0.1%; **Literacy:** 92.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 72.83; **p.c.i.:** \$ 8,000; **HDI rank:** 78; **Date of Independence:** 1238.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** King Bhumibol Adulyadej Abldet; **PM:** Samak Sundavavej.

Thailand, formerly known as Siam, is a southeast Asian country.

History: An ancient autocracy, it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932. In 1948, the country assumed its present name Thailand. It is the only southeast Asian country never taken over by a European power. The military took over the government in a bloody 1974 coup. In 1988, there was a democratic election but again military came to power in 1991. General elections were held in July, '95.

Thailand was well on its way to joining the club of Asia's 'economic tigers', when crisis deepened early '98 and the country appealed for help from G-7, and began implementing financial reforms.

On June 9, 1996 King Bhumibol, currently world's longest reigning monarch, completed 50 years on the throne.

In 2000, the Chakri dynasty marked its 200th anniversary.

Economy: Agriculture is the mainstay of the country and engages 60 per cent of the population. The chief crop is rice and Thailand is world's biggest rice exporter - target for 1996 was 5m. tons.

Coconuts, tobacco, cotton and teak are the other items of agricultural exports. During the last decade Thailand increased her export of manufactured and processed items. Industry: Cement, processed food, textiles, wood, tin, jewelry. Minerals include tin (one of the largest producers), manganese, tungsten, antimony, lignite and lead. Since 1982 tourism has been Thailand's largest revenue earner.

Mission in India: Royal Thai Embassy, 56-N, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021. Tel: 26118103; Fax: 26872029.

E-mail: thaidel@mfa.go.th

Indian Mission in Thailand: Embassy of India, 46, Soi 23 (Prasannmitr) Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok-10110, Thailand. Tel: 00-66-2-2580300 to 6; Fax: 00-66-2-2584627, 2621740.

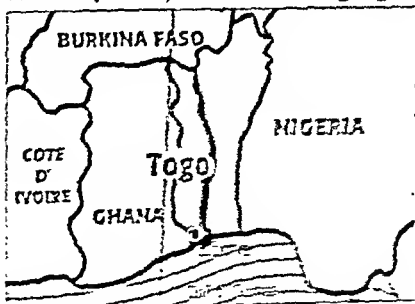
E-mail: indiaemb@mozart.inet.co.th

173 TOGO

(Republic of Togo)

Republique Togolaise

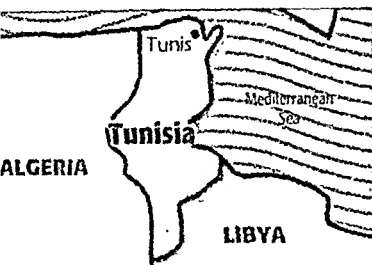
Capital: Lome; **Area:** 56,785 sq.km.; **Population:** 5,858,673; **Languages:** French (official) and tribal languages;



Heavily Dependent

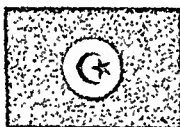
Greenland depends on Danish assistance for more than 40% of the GNP. A Danish protectorate since 1721, it has sought to cut its ties with Denmark.

thers-1%; **Literacy:** 74.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.56; **p.c.i:** \$ 7,500; **HDI rank:** 91; **Date of Independence:** 20th March, 1956.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Gen. Zine-al-Abidine Ben Ali. **PM:** Mohamed Ghannouchi.

History: A republic in North Africa, lying on the Mediterranean coast and formerly a French protectorate, Tunisia became autonomous in 1956 and assumed republican status in 1957. It is the site of ancient Carthage.



Economy: Tunisia is an agricultural country, and produces wheat, barley, oats, dates, olives, citrus fruits, almonds, figs, vegetables and alfa grass. The chief minerals are phosphates, iron, lead and zinc. **Industry:** Oil production, textiles, leather, fertilisers, construction materials, food processing. The principal exports are olive oil, wine, phosphates and grains.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia, A-42, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110 057. Tel: 2614 5346, 2614 5349; Fax: 26145301.

E-mail: tunisiaembassy@airtelbroadband.in

Indian Mission in Tunisia: Embassy of India, 4, Place Didon, Notre Dame, Tunis 1002. Tel: 00-216-1-787819; Fax: 00-216-1-783394. E-mail: embassy.india@email.ati.tn

177. Turkey

(Republic of Turkey)

Capital: Ankara; **Other Large Cities:** Istanbul, Izmir, Adana, Bursa; **Area:** 779,452 sq.km.; **Population:** 71,892,807; **Languages:** Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic; **Religions:** Muslim-99.8% (mostly Sunni), other-0.2% (mostly Christians and Jews); **Literacy:** 87.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.14; **p.c.i:** \$ 9,400; **HDI rank:** 84; **Date of Independence:** 29th October, 1923



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Abdullah Gul, **PM:** Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

A republic in south eastern Europe and Asia Minor, Turkey occupies a strategic position, linking as it does Asia and Europe at the Straits of Bosphorus, between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

History: Asiatic Turkey, that is, Ana-

Paper From Elephant Dung

Eco-friendly paper is being produced from elephant dung at the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka. An elephant generates about 180 kg. of waste a day.

Economy: Tonga is an agricultural country. Crops: coconuts, bananas, vanilla, coffee, ginger. Copra and bananas exported. Industry: Tourism, coconut products, fishing.

achieved independence in 1962 and became a republic in 1976.



Ethnic profile: African descent 40.8%,

Indians 40.7%, mixed races 16.3%, European, Chinese and others 2.2%.

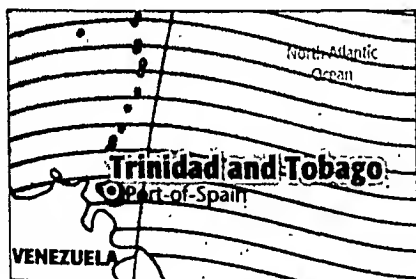
Economy: There are large reserves of petroleum and natural gas. Trinidad and Tobago has the most diversified and industrialised economy in the English-speaking Caribbean. Industries include oil processing, manufactured goods, fertilisers, rum, cement and tourism. Chief crops are sugarcane, citrus fruit, cocoa, coffee and bananas.

Mission in India: High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, B-3/26, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-1100057. Tel: 4600 7500; Fax: 4600 7505.

E-mail: admin@hctt.org

Indian Mission in Trinidad and Tobago: High Commission of India, No.6, Victoria Avenue, Post Box No. 530, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. Tel: 00-1-868-6277480, 6277481; Fax: 00-94-1-868-6276985.

E-mail: hcipos@tstt.net.tt



Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **President:** George Maxwell Richards; **PM:** Patrick Manning.

Trinidad and Tobago are the southernmost islands of the Caribbean archipelago.

History: Formerly a British Colony, it

176. Tunisia

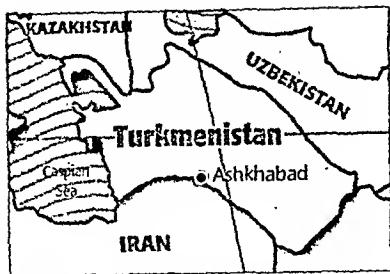
(Republic of Tunisia)

Al Jumhuriyah al Tunisiyah

Capital: Tunis; **Other Large Cities:** Sfax, Sousse; **Area:** 164,150 sq.km.; **Population:** 10,383,577; **Languages:** Arabic (official) and French; **Religions:** Muslim-98%, Christian-1%, Jewish and

The Beginning of the Great War

On June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, knocked away a bomb thrown at him. While visiting those wounded in the bomb attack, a Bosnian student named Gavrilo Princip lunged at his car, firing three shots and killing the Archduke. This led to the beginning of WWI.



Rank: 109; **Date of Independence:** 27th October, 1991.

Government Type: Republic; **President & PM:** Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

A former Soviet republic, Turkmenistan is bounded by the Caspian sea on the west. Its neighbours are Uzbekistan, Iran and Afghanistan. The Kara Kum desert occupies 80% of the area.

History: The region became part of Russian Turkestan in 1881 and a republic of the USSR in 1925.



In Oct. 1991, Turkmenistan adopted a declaration of independence, and became a member of the CIS in Dec.

Political power centred around the former Communist party apparatus.

Economy: Maize, grapes, fruit and vegetables, cotton (key foreign exchange earner), wool, fur are the main agricultural products. Declining agricultural production has forced Turkmenistan to import most of its foodstuffs. Natural resources: Ozocerite, oil, coal, sulphur, salt magnesium. Extensive oil

and gas reserves give Turkmenistan edge over other former Soviet republics. Industry: Food, textile, chemicals, cement, agricultural implements, ferrous metal, concrete, footwear, knitwear. The country is self-sufficient in electricity.

Mission in India: Embassy of Turkmenistan, C-11, West End Colony, New Delhi -110021; Tel: 2411 6527, ; Fax: 26116526, .

E-mail: Turkmen_embassy@starlink.net

Indian Mission in Turkmenistan: Embassy of India, Empress's International Business Centre, Y, Emre, 1, Mir 2, P.O. Box No. 80, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Tel: 00-99-312-456152, 456153; Fax: 00-99-312-452434, 456156.

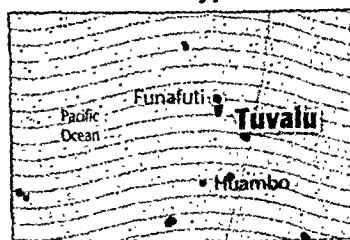
E-mail: ambassador@online.tm



179. Tuvalu

Capital: Funafuti; **Area:** 26 sq.km; **Population:** 12,177; **Language:** Tuvaluan, English; **Religions:** Church of Tuvalu (Congregationalist)-9.7%, Seventh-Day Adventist-1.4%, Balineo-1%, others-0.6%; **Literacy:** 55%; **Life Expectancy:** 68.97; **p.c.i.:** \$ 1,000; **Date of Independence:** 1st October 1978.

Government Type: Parliamentary



Asafoetida

Asafoetida, formerly used medicinally to treat hysteria, is the gum resin exuded from the stem of an umbelliferous plant, found in Iran and Afghanistan. It is used in cooking in India and several other countries.

Kampala, Uganda. Tel: 00-256-41-257368,
Fax: 00-256-41-254943.

E-mail: hoc@hicomindkampala.org

181 The Ukraine

(Ukrayina)

Capital: Kiev; **Other Large Cities:** Kharkiv, Donetsk, Odessa, Lviv;
Area: 603,700 sq.km.; **Population:** 5,994,287; **Languages:** Ukrainian, Russian; **Religions:** Ukrainian Orthodox, Moscow Patriarchate, Kiev Patriarchate, Autocephalous Orthodox, Ukrainian Catholic (Uniate), Protestant, Jewish;
Literacy: 99.4%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.06; **p.c.i:** \$ 6,900; **HDI rank:** 76;
Date of Independence: 24th August, 1991.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Viktor A. Yushchenko; **PM:** Yulia Tymoshenko.

History: The Ukraine in south-west former USSR became independent in 1991. It has a Black Sea coast and western frontiers with Romania,

Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia and is bounded north by Byelorussia and otherwise by Russia. Ukraine was one of the founder members of the CIS.

It is the most densely populated of the former Soviet republics. The second richest former Soviet republic, Ukraine contains some of the richest land in former USSR. It is considered the Soviet wheat belt.

In Apr. '86, the world's worst nuclear powerplant disaster occurred in Chernobyl, Ukraine. The plant has been closed for good.

In June, '95, Russia and Ukraine reached agreement on the disputed Black Sea fleet at Sevastopol. In June, 1996, Ukraine became a nuclear weapon-free nation with the transfer of the last of its warheads to Russia. A new constitution legalising private property and establishing Ukrainian as the sole official language was approved in the same month.

Economy: Wheat, sugarbeet, sunflower, cotton, flax, tobacco, soya, fruit and vegetables, meat and milk are the main agricultural products. Natural resources: Coal, iron ore, manganese, oil, salt and chemicals. Industry: Ferrous metallurgical, chemical, machinery, paper, television, consumer goods and food industries.

Mission in India: Embassy of Ukraine, No.E-1/8, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057; Tel: 26146041, 26146042, Fax: 26146043

E-mail: embassy@bol.net

Web: www.ukraineembassyindia.com

Indian Mission in Ukraine: Embassy of India, 4, Terokhina Street, Padol Dis-

Frankincense

Frankincense is an evergreen tree / shrub growing to 6 m., native to Somaliland. Aromatic resin is obtained from cuts in the bark of the tree.

Democracy; **Gov. Gen.:** Filoimea Telito;
PM: Apisai Telemia.

History: Formerly known as the Ellice Islands, Tuvalu is a scattered group of nine small atolls in the Western Pacific Ocean and one of the world's smallest independent nations. It separated from the British Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony in 1975 under the name Tuvalu. Full independence was granted on October 1, 1978.

Economy: The poor quality of the soil permits subsistence farming of coconuts only. Most of the foreign exchange is earned through the sale of postage stamps and coins, copra and from remittances by Tuvaluans abroad.

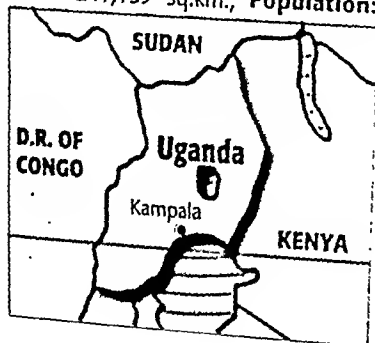
Tuvalu was admitted to the UN as its 189th member in Sept., 2000.



180. Uganda

(Republic of Uganda)

Capital: Kampala; **Other Large Cities:** Jinja, Mbale, Masaka, Entebbe;
Area: 241,139 sq.km.; **Population:**



31,367,972; **Languages:** English, Luganda and Swahili; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-41.9%, Protestant-42%, Muslim-12.1%, other 3.1%, none 0.9%; **Literacy:** 66.8%; **Life Expectancy:** 52.34; **p.c.i:** \$ 1,100; **HDI rank:** 154; **Date of Independence:** 9th October, 1962.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Yoweri Museveni. **PM:** Apollo Nsubambi.

History: Uganda is an equatorial state in East Africa. Formerly a British protectorate, Uganda became independent in 1962 and a republic in 1963. A military coup led by Lt Gen Tito Okello ousted Milton Obote's govt in 1985. Milton Obote had himself come to power after ousting dictator Idi Amin in 1979. In 1972, nearly all of Uganda's 45,000 Asians were expelled.

Economy: The economy is agricultural. Main products are coffee (Africa's biggest producer) and cotton. Industry: Tea, sugar, tobacco, textiles, beer and cement. Minerals: Copper, cobalt. Uganda's economy has become the fastest growing in Africa.

Mission in India: Uganda High Commission, B-3/26, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057, Tel 26145602, 26145817, Fax: 26144405.

E-mail: ughcom@ndb.vsnl.net.in
Indian Mission in Uganda: High Commission of India, Plot 11, Kyandon da Road, Nakasero, P.O. Box 7040, Kampala.



Vodka Loving Russians

Russians drink some 2 billion litres of vodka and other strong drinks a year, which work out at 17 litres of undiluted alcohol per capita - the absolute record in the world.

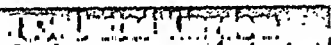
On 16 December 2006, UAE held its first-ever national elections. A small number of hand-picked voters chose half of the members of the Federal National Council - an advisory body.

Mission in India: Embassy of the UAE, EP-12, Chandergupta Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021. Tel: 24670830, 24670945; Telefax: 26873272.

E-mail:uae_embassy_nd@yahoo.co.in

Indian Mission in UAE: Embassy of India, Plot No.10, Sector W-59/02, Diplomatic Area, Off-Airport Road, P.O.Box No.4090, Abu Dhabi (UAE). Tel: 00-971-2-4492700; Fax: 00-971-2-4444685.

E-mail:indiauae@emirates.net.ae



United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Capital: London; **Other Large Cities:** Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool; **Area:** 244,108 sq km; **Population:** 60,943,912; **Languages:** English, Welsh, Scottish and Gaelic; **Religions:** Christian (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist)-71.6%, Muslim -2.7%, Hindu -1%, unspecified



or none-23.1%, **Literacy:** 99%; **Life Expectancy:** 78.85; **p.c.i:** \$ 35,300; **HDI rank:** 16; **Date of Independence:** 1284.

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy; **Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II, **PM:** Gordon Brown.

History: The United Kingdom(UK) constitutes the greater part of the British Isles. Great Britain is the largest of the islands forming the United Kingdom.



dom. It comprises England, Scotland, and Wales. The next largest is Ireland, comprising Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, and the Irish Republic. Western Scotland is fringed by the large island chains known the inner and Outer Hebrides, and to the north of the Scottish mainland are the Orkney and Shetland islands. All these, along with the Isle of Wight, Anglesey and the Isles of Scilly, have administrative ties with the Mainland, but the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea and the Channel Islands between Great Britain and France are largely self-governing, and are not part of the UK. The UK is one of the 25 member states of the European Union (UN).

The United Kingdom's system of government is known as constitutional monarchy, though its constitution is not contained in any one document; instead it has evolved over many years. Ministers of the Crown govern in the name of the Sovereign, who is both head of state and head of the government. Actual power is vested in parliament with

Steps of Birth and Death

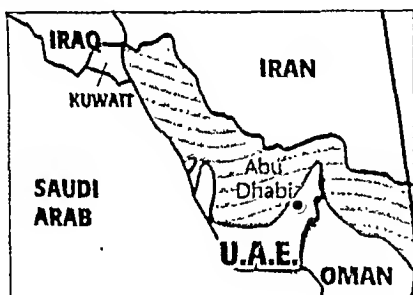
On the Isle of Man, women used to sprinkle the floor with ashes on New Year's Eve, and look for footprints in the morning. Steps leading toward the door meant a death in the family while steps entering meant a birth.

rikt, Kyiv-01901, Ukraine. Tel: 00-380-44-4686219; Fax: 00-380-44-4686619.
E-mail:india@public.ua.net

182. United Arab Emirates

Ittihad al-Imarat al-Arabiyyah

Capital: Abu Dhabi; **Other Large Cities:** Dubai, Sharjah, Ras al-Khaimah; **Area:** 82,880 sq.km.; **Population:** 4,621,399; **Languages:** Arabic; **Religions:** Muslim-96% (Shi'a-16%), Christian, Hindu and others-4%; **Literacy:** 77.9%; **Life Expectancy:** 75.89; **p.c.i.:** \$ 55,200; **HDI rank:** 39; **Date of Independence:** 2nd December, 1971.



Government Type: Federation of Emirates; **President:** Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayid Al Nahayyan; **Vice President and PM:** Muhammed bin Rashid al-Maktum.

History: The United Arab Emirates consist of seven autonomous emirates in the Persian Gulf—Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Umm-al-Qaiwain, Ajman, Fujairah and Ras-al-Khaimah. These were formerly referred to as the 'Trucial States'. Most

of the land is barren and sandy. Rainfall is limited and erratic. One-tenth of the population are nomads.

Abu Dhabi, which is the capital of the Union, is the largest of the Emirates in area. Dubai is the main port of the Union and now has the largest harbour in West Asia. Dubai, the commercial hub of the Middle East, is now transforming itself into a manufacturing location and also a cultural, sports, leisure, and shopping centre.

Economy: In the past, the people of this area made their living from subsistence agriculture and fishing, though with little good land or supplies of fresh water the agricultural prospects are limited. A combination of land reclamation and irrigation from underground aquifers allows farmers to grow dates for export and enables the UAE to be self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. As a result of such efforts, total production increased six-fold during the 1990s.

Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai have steadily been diversifying away from oil into such areas of refining and petrochemicals. Dubai has the world's largest single-site aluminium smelter and has a major duty-free zone at Jebel. Tourism is another useful source of income. Dubai's port, airport, and glittering array of hotels, restaurants and shops draw people from all over the region.

Only a tiny proportion of the land area is suitable for agriculture. Crops include dates and alfalfa, along with other fruit varieties and cereals. Besides oil and gas industries, aluminium smelting, trade and financial services are also important.

\$14m. for a Licence Plate

Twenty-five-year-old Saeed Khouri of Abu Dhabi spent \$ 14 million in Feb. '08, at a charity auction for a licence plate that displays the number I.

is the supreme legislative body in Great Britain. The parliament consists of two houses - the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

Economy: Britain is one of the world's leading industrial and exporting countries. Chief industries are iron and steel, engineering, chemicals, electronics, motor vehicles, metals, machinery, ship building, aircraft, textiles, cloth, other consumer goods and banking. Metals and metal using industries contribute more than 50% of the exports. Britain's coal mines yield about 128 million tons annually. Although Britain's agriculture and trawler - fishing are highly mechanised, half of the country's food supplies and most of its raw materials are imported. Chief crops: Grains, sugar, fruits, vegetables.

Severn and Thames are the largest rivers. The most famous church is Westminster Abbey. The most celebrated universities are Oxford and Cambridge. There are about 40 other universities.

England: Population: 49m. A large overseas empire was established. United with Wales (1536), with Scotland (1707) and with Ireland (1801; partition in 1921) to form United Kingdom.

Wales: The principality of Wales in Western Britain has a population of 2,899,000. Cardiff is the capital. English and Welsh are spoken.

Scotland: Scotland occupies the northern 37% of the main British island, and the Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, and smaller islands. Population: 5,111,000. Edinburgh is the capital.

Northern Ireland is situated in the northeast of Ireland and forms part of the United Kingdom. It comprises six Ulster counties of Antrim, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. The rest of the island forms the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland has been rocked by bloody agitation for union with Catholic Irish Republic. 1985 saw an Anglo-Irish agreement which for the first time gave Dublin a say in the running of the province. Population: 1,610,000 and Capital: Belfast.

Agriculture is the main occupation in Northern Ireland. Cattle, sheep, hogs, eggs, poultry, potatoes and milk are the important products. Linen, ropes, twines, rayon, clothing, tobacco, a craft and shipping form the main branches of industry.

Mission in India: High Commission for Britain, Shantipath, Chanakya Park, New Delhi-110021. Tel: 0091-11-24192100, 26872161; Fax: 0091-11-26870060 (Vish)

E-mail: postmaster.nedel@co.gov.uk;
Web: www.ukinindia.com

Consulate: Kolkata: British Deputy High Commission, 1A Ho. Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata-700 071. Tel: (91-33) 22885172/22885173-76, E-mail: Kolkata@fco.gov.uk

Chennai: British Deputy High Commission, 20, Anderson Road, Chennai-600 006, Tel: (91-44) 42192151

Indian Mission in United Kingdom: High Commission of India, India House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4NA, United Kingdom. Tel: 00-44-0207-8368484, 3796242 (After Office). Fax: 00-44-0207-8364331.

Ogling Women

British men spend a year ogling women, a new research says. The guy ogles at 11 girls every day for two minutes each. This adds up to 134 hours a year, amounting to 350 days over a lifetime.

Georgia (GA)	Atlanta	152577	7,788,240
Hawaii (HI)	Honolulu	16760	1,185,497
Idaho (ID)	Boise	216431	1,251,700
Illinois (IL)	Springfield	145934	12,128,370
Indiana (IN)	Indianapolis	93719	5,942,901
Iowa (IA)	Des Moines	145752	2,869,413
Kansas (KS)	Topeka	213097	2,654,052
Kentucky (KY)	Frankfort	104659	3,960,825
Louisiana (LA)	Baton Rouge	123678	4,372,035
Maine (ME)	Augusta	86156	1,253,040
Maryland (MD)	Annapolis	27091	5,171,634
Massachusetts			
(MA)	Boston	21456	6,175,169
Michigan (MI)	Lansing	151585	9,863,775
Minnesota (MN)	St. Paul	218601	4,775,508
Mississippi (MS)	Jackson	123515	2,768,619
Missouri (MO)	Jefferson city	180515	5,468,338
Montana (MT)	Helena	380849	882,779
Nebraska (NE)	Lincoln	200349	1,666,028
Nevada (NV)	Carson City	286353	1,809,253
New Hampshire			
(NH)	Concord	24033	1,201,134
New Jersey (NJ)	Treton	20168	8,143,412
New Mexico (NM)	Santa Fe	314923	1,739,844
New York (NY)	Albany	127190	18,196,601
North Carolina			
(NC)	Raleigh	136413	7,650,789
North Dakota			
(ND)	Bismarck	183118	633,666
Ohio (OH)	Columbus	107045	11,256,654
Oklahoma (OK)	Oklahoma City	181186	3,358,044
Oregon (OR)	Salem	251419	3,316,154
Pennsylvania (PA)	Harrisburg	117348	11,994,016
Rhode Island (RI)	Providence	3139	990,819
South Carolina			
(SC)	Columbia	80583	3,885,736
South Dakota			
(SD)	Pierre	199730	733,133
Tennessee (TN)	Nashville	109153	5,483,535

Texas (TX)	Austin	691030	20,044,141
Utah (UT)	Salt Lake City	219888	2,129,836
Vermont (VT)	Montpelier	24900	593,740
Virginia (VA)	Richmond	105587	6,872,912
Washington (WA)	Olympia	176480	5,756,361
West Virginia (WV)	Charleston	62758	1,806,928
Wisconsin (WI)	Madison	145436	5,250,446
Wyoming (WY)	Cheyenne	253325	479,602

*Postal two-letter (both capitals) abbreviations for U.S. states were introduced with the ZIP Code in 1963. These are fast replacing the older abbreviations.

Economy: Agriculture: Main crops are maize, wheat, soyabeans, barley, oats, rice, sugar, potatoes, cotton, tobacco and dairy products. Industries: Iron and steel, food and kindred products, chemicals, metal products, electronic equipment, machinery, transportation equipment, paper, petroleum products, fertilisers, plastics. Minerals: Coal, copper, lead, phosphates, uranium, zinc, gold, silver, iron, molybdenum, oil. Oil reserves in USA, the worlds second-biggest oil producer, are expected to last only 10 years if output continues at the current rate. Exports: Machinery, chemicals, motor vehicles, aircraft, military equipment, grains, cereals.

The U.S. is the only industrial country where large population increases are still projected, largely as the result of immigration. The US population used to be called a melting pot; now it is thought of as a 'salad bowl' with discrete ingredients. Even so there is extensive inter-marriage. One-quarter of Hispanics who wed in the USA marry non-Hispanics. One third of Asian-Americans marry

Quit Smoking and Get Paid

Smokers in deprived parts of Dundee, Scotland are offered food vouchers worth \$50 a month if they give up smoking and take weekly carbon monoxide breath tests to prove it.

185: Uruguay

(Oriental Republic of Uruguay) República Oriental del Uruguay.

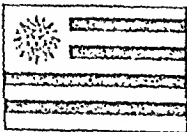
Capital: Montevideo; **Other Large Cities:** Salto, Rivera; **Area:** 176,215 sq.km.; **Population:** 3,477,778; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Roman Catholic-66%, Protestant-2%, Jewish-1%, non-Professing or others-31%; **Literacy:** 98%; **Life Expectancy:** 76.14; **p.c.i.:** \$ 10,700; **HDI rank:** 46; **Date of Independence:** 25th August, 1825



Government Type: Republic; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Tabare Vazquez.

The smallest republic in South America, Uruguay lies in southern S. America, on the Atlantic Ocean.

History: Formerly a part of the Spanish Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata and subsequently a province of Brazil, Uruguay became independent on Aug. 25, 1825. After a military coup of 1976, civilian government was restored in 1985.



Economy: Livestock-raising is Uruguay's principal occupation and takes up 60 per cent of its total land area. The chief products are meat, wool, hides, corn, wheat, citrus fruit, rice, tobacco, oats and linseed. Important industries are winery, meatpacking, textiles, cement and oil products.

Socialist measures were adopted as far back as 1911. The welfare programmes earned Uruguay a reputation as the Switzerland of Latin America.

Mission in India: Embassy of Uruguay, A-16/2, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057, Tel: 26151991, 26151992; Fax: 2614 4306.

E-mail: uruind@del3.vsnl.net.in

186: Uzbekistan

Ozbekiston Respublikasy

Capital: Tashkent; **Other Large Cities:** Samarkhand, Namangan; **Area:** 447,400 sq.km.; **Population:** 28,268,440; **Languages:** Uzbek, Russian; **Religions:** Muslim-88% (mostly Sunnis), Eastern Orthodox-9%, others-3%; **Literacy:** 99.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 65.38; **p.c.i.:** \$ 2,200; **HDI rank:** 113; **Date of Independence:** 1st September, 1991.



Geologically Active Iceland

Iceland is close to the Arctic circle, but its climate is mostly mild. Mount Hvan-nadals (2119 m.) is on the edge of a vast glacier. It is one of the most geologically active places on earth.

non-Asians. Black and white are less likely to intermarry.

Mission in India: Embassy of the USA, American Embassy, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi- 110021. Tel: 24198000; Fax: 24190017; Foreign Commercial Service and Library of Congress- 24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001; Tel: 23316841.

E-mail: NDBOXMEA@state.gov

Consulate: Calcutta: 5/1, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Calcutta-700 071, West Bengal, Tel: 91 33 39842400 Email: Consular Calcutta@ state.gov; Mumbai: Lincoln House, 78, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai-400 026, Tel: (22) 2363-3611 Email: mumbai.usconsulate.gov; Chennai: Gemini circle, 220, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006, Tel : 28574000; Email: chennai.usconsulate.gov

Indian Mission in United States of America: Embassy of India, 2107, Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington DC 2008. Tel: 00-1-202-9397000; Fax: 00-1-202-2654351.

E-mail: indembwash@indiagov.org

Outlying Territories

Puerto Rico: (Commonwealth of Puerto Rico); **Capital:** San Juan; **Area:** 13,790 sq.km; **Population:** 3,958,128; **Languages:** Spanish and English; **Religions:** Christianity; **p.c.i:** \$19,600

Governor: Anibal Acavedo-vila.

The island of Puerto Rico lies 80 km east of Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republics) in the outer Caribbean. In 1952, it ceased to be a colonial possession and became a free Commonwealth.

It has close ties with U.S. People have U.S. citizenship with no voting rights.

From a purely agricultural country, Puerto Rico (formerly Porto Rico) is fast changing to an industrial economy and is the wealthiest Caribbean island. "The Poor house of the Caribbean" was changed to an area with one of the highest standards of living in Latin America, thanks to the famous "Operation Bootstrap" begun in the late 40s.

In a referendum in November, 1993, Puerto Ricans said no to total merger with USA.

The main crops are sugar, tobacco and coffee. Industries include textiles, clothing, cigars, alcohol, chemicals and household appliances. Tourism is an important source of revenue.

Guam: **Area:** 541 sq.km.; **Population:** 175,877; **Capital:** Agana.

Commonwealth of the N.Mariana Is: **Area:** 477 sq.km.; **Population:** 45,200; **Capital:** Saipan.

American Samoa: **Area:** 199 sq.km. **Population:** 57,496; **Capital:** Pago Pago.

Other Pacific territories: Johnston Atoll (Two small islands 1150 km. south-west of Hawaii. **Population:** 1200; **Midway Islands** (Two small islands at the western end of the Hawaiian chain. **Population:** 453 (1980), **Wake Island** (Three small islands 3700 k.m. west of Hawaii. **Population:** 302(1980).

Virgin Islands of the United States: **Area:** 342 sq.km. **Population:** 108,210; **Capital:** Charlotta Amalie.

Italic Script

Aldus Manutius of Venice introduced the slopping style of handwriting known as Italic Script, in 1500. Italic Script, later introduced into printing, is used for identification of foreign words, book titles, etc.

s overwhelmingly Melanesian.

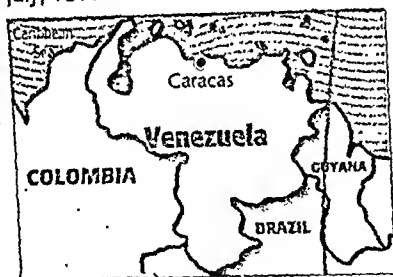
Economy: The major cash crops are copra, coffee and cocoa. Vanuatu is a popular tourist destination in the South Pacific.

Industry: Fish-freezing, meat canneries, tourism. Manganese has been mined since 1961 and exported to Japan.

188. Venezuela

(Republic of Venezuela)
Republica de Venezuela

Capital: Caracas; **Other Large Cities:** Maracaibo, Valencia; **Area:** 912,050 sq. km.; **Population:** 26,023,528; **Languages:** Spanish; **Religions:** Nominally Roman Catholic-96%, Protestant-2%, others-2%; **Literacy:** 93%; **Life Expectancy:** 73.28; **p.c.i.:** \$ 7,200; **HDI rank:** 74; **Date of Independence:** 5th July, 1811.



Government Type: Federal Republic; **Head of State & Govt. (President):** Hugo Chavez.

History: Venezuela (Little Venice) on the Caribbean coast is the northernmost state of South America. Sighted by Columbus in 1498, it was formerly



a Spanish colony. Venezuela became independent in 1811 and a republic in 1830. Military strongmen ruled

Venezuela for most of the 20th century. Since 1959, it has had democratically elected governments. Venezuela is the richest and most urbanised Latin American nation. The world's highest waterfall, Angel Falls, with an overall drop of 979 m. is in Venezuela.

Economy: Venezuela, a member of the OPEC, is one of the world's leading producers of oil and the largest oil exporter outside the Middle East. Venezuela is rich in diamonds and ranks 8th in world production. Other minerals are iron, steel, aluminium, copper, tin and manganese. Agricultural products include coffee, cocoa, bananas, maize, rice and sugar.

President Chavez won a landslide victory for a six-year term, in August, 2000 capturing 59% of the votes.

Mission in India: Embassy of Venezuela, N-114, Panchshila Park, New Delhi 110 017. Tel: 26496535, 26496783; Fax: 26491686.

E-mail: embavene@del2.vsnl.net.in

Indian Mission in Venezuela: Embassy of India, Quinta Tagore, No.1 Avenoda San Carlos, La Floresta, Apartado de Correo 61585, Chacao 106 Caracas, Venezuela. Tel: 00-58-212857887; Fax: 00-58-2865131.

E-mail: embindia@eldishcom.ve

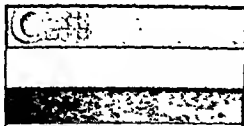
Website: <http://www.embindia.org>

Primates are Disappearing

Nearly half of the world's 634 types of primates are in danger of becoming extinct because of deforestation and hunting for meat, according to a report released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Islam A. Karimov; **PM:** Shavkat Mirziyayev.

History: A former Soviet republic that became independent in Dec., 1991, Uzbekistan is bordered by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.



Economy: Agriculture: Uzbekistan has an excellent record in agriculture. Intensive farming, based on artificial irrigation is practised. It is the chief cotton-growing area in former Soviet Union and the third in the world. It produced 65% of the total cotton, 50% of the total rice and 60% of the total lucerne grown in the former union. Crops: cotton, lucerne, grain, potatoes, vegetables, grapes, fruit and berries. Natural resources: Oil, coal, copper, ozocerite, building materials. Industry: Agricultural machinery, cement, textiles, paper, ferroconcrete.

The Roman alphabet (in use 1929-40) was re-introduced in 1994.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, EP-40, Radhakrishnan Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021, Tel: 24670774, 24670775, 24105640; Fax: 24670773. E-mail: info@uzbekembassy.in

Indian Mission in Uzbekistan: Embassy of India, 5 Ulitsa Alexie Tols-togo No.3, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Tel: 00-998-71-1338357; Fax: 00-998-71-13619756.

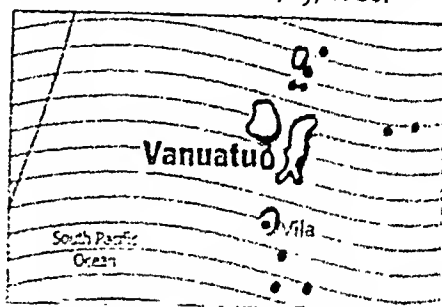
E-mail: indemb@online.ru

187. Vanuatu

(Republic of Vanuatu)

Ripablik Blong Vanuatu

Capital: Vila; **Area:** 14,760 sq km; **Population:** 215,446; **Languages:** English, French and Bislama; **Religions:** Presbyterian-31.4%, Anglican-13.4%, Roman Catholic-13.1%, indigenous beliefs-5.6%, Seventh-Day Adventist-10.8%, other Christian-13.8%, others-9.6%; **Literacy:** 74%; **Life Expectancy:** 63.61; **p.c.i.:** \$2,900; **HDI rank:** 120; **Date of Independence:** 30th July, 1980.



Government Type: Parliamentary Republic; **President:** Kalkot Matas Kelekele; **PM:** Ham Lini.

History: The Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides became independent under the name Vanuatu

on July 30, 1980. It is a double chain of 13 large and 80 small islands in South West Pacific. The largest island is the Espiritu Santo. Originally a haunt of European pirates, they came under the control of France and Britain in 1906. The population



The Potato-Shaped Halley

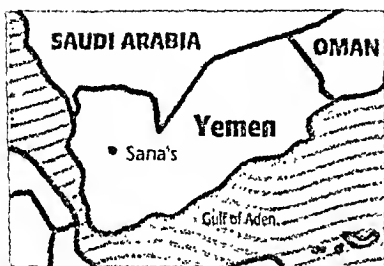
Halley's comet has a potato-shaped nucleus measuring 15 km by 10 km. This was revealed by the 1986 Giotto space probe. The nucleus consists of lots of volatile gases, mainly water interspersed with dust particles.

195. Yemen

(Republic of Yemen)

Al Jumhuriyah al Yamaniyah

Capital: Sana'a; **Capital** (Commercial and winter): Aden; **Area:** 531,000 sq km; **Population:** 23,013,376; **Languages:** Arabic; **Religions:** Muslim including Shaf'i (Sunni) and Zaydi (Shi'a), small numbers of Jew, Christian, and Hindu; **Literacy:** 50.2%; **Life Expectancy:** 62.90; **p.c.i.:** \$ 2,400; **HDI rank:** 153; **Date of Independence:** 22nd May, 1990.



Government Type: Republic; **President:** Col Ali Abdullah Saleh **PM:** Ali Muhammad Mujawwar.

History: North and South Yemen merged in May 1990 into a United Republic of Yemen in the south west of the



Arabian peninsula. North Yemen was established in 1962 while South Yemen (formerly Aden and the Protectorate of South Arabia) became independent in 1967.

Centuries ago Yemen was a rich land of exotic spices, frankincense and myrrh. The legendary Queen of Sheba ruled the king-

dom then known as Happy Yemen. South Yemen became the Arab world's only Marxist nation after independence.

In 1994, regional clan-based rivalries led to full-scale civil war. On May 5, S. Yemen declared itself an independent state, breaking away from united Yemen. The 2-month war ended on July 7, when Aden, fell to the northern forces. Losses caused by the conflict is estimated at \$3 b.

Parliamentary elections were held in Apr. 1997.

Economy: The economy is chiefly based on oil and agriculture. The main agricultural products are coffee, dates, herbs, fruits, wheat, millet and maize. Cotton, coffee, hides and skins are exported. Industries: Food processing, mining and petroleum refining.

Mission in India: Embassy of the Republic of Yemen, D-2/5, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057, Tel: 42705723; Fax: 42705725

E-mail: yemenemb.india@gmail.com

Indian Mission in Yemen: Embassy of India, Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Post Box No. 1154, Sana'a, Yemen. Tel: 00-967-1-441251, 441252; Fax: 00-967-1-441257

E-mail: indiaemb@y.net.ye

196. Zambia

(Republic of Zambia)

Capital: Lusaka; **Other Large Cities:** Kitwe, Chingola; **Area:** 752,620 sq km; **Population:** 11,669,534; **Languages:** Bantu and English; **Religions:** Christian-50-75%, Muslim and Hindu-24-49%, indigenous beliefs-1%; **Literacy:** 80.6%; **Life Expectancy:** 38.59; **p.c.i.:** \$ 1400; **HDI rank:**

Where Shakespeare's Plays were Enacted

The remains of one of London's earliest theatres, from 1576, where Shakespeare's plays were first performed, were found by Museum archaeologists in August, 2008.

194. Vietnam

(Socialist Republic of Vietnam)

Cong Hoa Xa Hoi Chu Nghia Viet Nam

Capital: Hanoi; **Other Large Cities:** Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong, Hue; **Area:** 329,566 sq. km; **Population:** 86,116,559; **Languages:** Vietnamese, French, English, Chinese; **Religions:** Buddhist, Hoa Hao, Cao Dai, Christian (predominantly Roman Catholic, Some Protestant), indigenous beliefs, Muslim; **Literacy:** 90.3%; **Life Expectancy:** 71.33; **p.c.i:** \$ 2,600; **HDI rank:** 105; **Date of Independence:** 2nd September, 1945.



Government Type: Communist State;
President: Nguyen Minh Triet; **PM:** Nguyen Tan Dung

History: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (comprising former North and South Vietnam) is a mountainous country

in south east Asia. Running almost its entire length, is a mountain chain—the Annamite Chain. On one side of the mountain chain is the fertile Red River delta in the north and



on the other side is the Mekong delta in the south. The two deltas form the rice bowl of the country.

Vietnam War was fought mainly in South Vietnam from 1954 between US backed government forces and Viet Cong guerrillas supported by North Vietnam and Soviet armaments. US support of south began in 1961 and intensified from 1964. War formally concluded in 1973 but guerrilla activities continued in South. South Vietnam fell to communist forces in 1975 and gradual political reintegration followed. The unification of North and South Vietnam into the socialist Republic of Vietnam took place formally on July 2, 1976. The Northern capital, flag, anthem, emblem and currency were applied to the new state.

After 3 million died defending their country, women outnumber men three to one in Vietnam.

Economy: The country is primarily agricultural. Rice is the dominant crop and an export item. Other crops are rubber, sugarcane, coffee, maize and tea. Minerals include coal, tin, copper, chromium and phosphate. Industry: Cement, metallurgy, chemicals, paper, food processing and textiles.

Mission In India: Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 17, Kauliya Marg Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021 Tel: 23018059 (Visa Section), 23019818 (Ambassador's Office); Fax: 91-11-23017714

E-mail: sqvnindia@yahoo.com

Indian Mission In Vietnam: Embassy of India, 58-60, Tran Hung Dao, Hanoi, Vietnam. Tel: 00-84-4-8244989, Fax: 00-84-4-8244998.

E-mail: india@netnam.org.vn

Cloned Dogs

American woman Bernann McKinney received five puppies cloned from her late pit bull Booger in August 2008, which made her the first customer of RNL Bio, a S. Korean company, the first successful canine cloning service in the world

rank: 151; Date of Independence: 18th April, 1980

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy; **Head of State & Govt (President):** Robert G. Mugabe.

History: A landlocked country in SC Africa, Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) has Zambia, Botswana, S. Africa and Mozambique as neighbours. Achieved independence on April 18, 1980, after a bitter struggle against the white minority government in power.



A referendum rejected the new draft constitution in early 2000. In April, the constitution was amended to give the Govt. the right to seize white-owned farms without compensation. Mugabe, armed with the new law, went ahead with his plans to confiscate 804 farms belonging to Whites, to be redistributed to ordinary Zimbabweans. In June, 2000 election, Mugabe's party scored a narrow win.

Economy: Zimbabwe is rich in minerals notably copper, nickel, gold, asbestos,

chrome and coal. Its platinum deposits are the world's largest. Over 40 different types of metals and minerals are produced. About 40% of foreign exchange is derived from the export of metals, minerals and mineral related products. Industries include food processing, metals, textiles, furniture and engineering. Maize, groundnuts, cotton and tobacco are the chief crops, tobacco being the most important one. Zimbabwe is the world's second largest exporter of flue-cured tobacco, after Brazil. Zimbabwe's agricultural performance has been hailed as the best in black Africa. Tourism is the fastest growing sector in the country. About one-fourth of the adult population has HIV/AIDS.

Mission in India: High Commission of the Republic of Zimbabwe, E-12/7, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057, Tel: 26140430, 26140431; Fax: 26154316.

E-mail: zimdelhi@vsnl.net

Indian Mission in Zimbabwe: High Commission of India, No. 12, Natal Road, Belgrave, Post Box 4620, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Tel: 00-263-4-795955; Fax: 00-263-4-722324.

E-mail: hci@samara.co.zw

Non-UN Members

1. Turkish Cyprus

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Capital: Nicosia; **Area:** 3355 sq.km;

Population: 264,172 (2006 census);

Languages: Turkish.

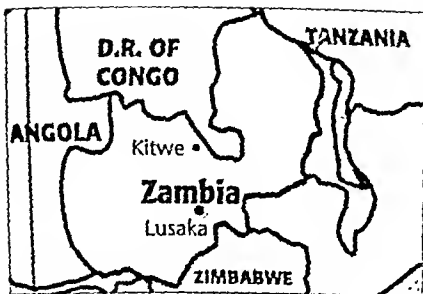
President: Mehmet Ali Talat; **PM:** Ferdi Sabit Soyer.

The Turkish-controlled area of North-



From the Beginning

The term 'Aborigines' applies to the original inhabitants of any country, in particular the aboriginal tribes of Australia. The term (derived from the Latin *ab origine* = from the beginning) first applied to an ancient mythical people of central Italy.



165; Date of Independence: 24th October, 1964.

Government Type: Republic; **President:** Levy Patrick Mwanawasa.

Zambia, a landlocked republic in south central Africa, takes its name from the River Zambezi, one of its biggest rivers. Originally known as Northern Rhodesia, it is separated from Zimbabwe by the Zambezi river. Kariba Dam, one of the biggest man-made dams in the world, is on the Zambezi river where it makes the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

History: Zambia, under the administration of the South Africa Company from 1889 to 1924, became independent



republic within the Commonwealth in 1964. In the 1980s, decline in copper prices hurt the economy. June 1990 witnessed severe violence caused by food riots. One-party rule came to an end with October 1991 elections.

Over 500,000 children had been orphaned by the AIDS epidemic by the late 1990s.

Economy: Maize, tobacco, millet, cassava, groundnuts, cotton and sugar are produced. The country is rich in minerals including copper, zinc, cobalt, lead, uranium

and manganese. Although copper mining dominates Zambia's economy, the country made a major shift to agricultural production, as a result of the crippling fluctuations of copper prices in the world market. President Chiluba reversed 27 years of command-economy so

Mission in India: High Commission of the Republic of Zambia, E-86, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. Tel: 26145883, 26145764; Fax: 26145764.

E-mail: zambian@sify.com

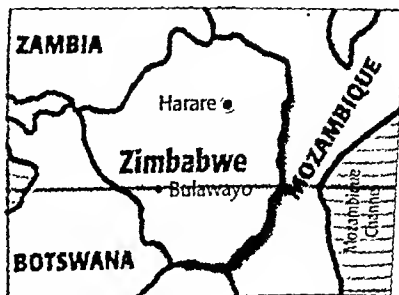
Indian Mission in Zambia: High Commission of India, 1, Pandit Nehru Road, P.O. Box 32111, Lusaka, Zambia. Tel: 00-260-1-253159, 253160; Fax: 00-260-1-254118.

E-mail: chancery@india.zm

197 Zimbabwe

(Republic of Zimbabwe)

Capital: Harare; **Other Large Cities:** Bulawayo, Gweru; **Area:** 390,272 sq km; **Population:** 12,382,920; **Languages:** English, Shona and Ndebele; **Religions:** Syncretic (partly Christian, partly indigenous beliefs)-50%, Christian-25%, indigenous beliefs-24%, Muslim and others-1%; **Literacy:** 90.7%; **Life Expectancy:** 39.73; **p.c.i:** \$ 500; **HDI**



First Animals in Space

Laika (a dog from the USSR) was in space on Nov. 3, 1957, followed by I and Benji (mice from the USA) on Dec. 13, 1958, Able and Baker (female monkey and female squirrel monkey from the USA) on May 28, 1961.

PLO was founded in 1964 to express the nationalist aspirations of Palestinian Arabs. In 1974, the UN granted it permanent observer status and in 1976, PLO became a regular member of the Arab League.

About 80 nations including India immediately recognised the new nation, which was born out of struggle extending over forty years.

However, in Israel, the government of the right-wing Likud Bloc and the left-leaning Labour Party with Yitzhak Shamir as Prime Minister still refused to recognise PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In the 47-year old Arab-Israeli conflict, the demand of Palestinians had been an independent homeland in the West Bank (preferred Palestinian term, Northern District) and Gaza with capital in Jerusalem.

The Oslo Accords of the early 1990s between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel led to the creation of the Palestinian Authority. This was an interim organisation created to administer a limited form of Palestinian self-governance in the territories for a period of five years during which final-status negotiations would take place. The Palestinian Authority carried civil responsibility in some rural areas, as well as security responsibility in the major cities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Although the five-year interim period expired in 1999, the final status agreement has yet to be concluded despite attempts such as the 2000 Camp David Summit, the Taba Summit, and the unofficial Geneva Accords.

In 2005, Israeli forces withdrew from the Gaza Strip, ceding full effective inter-

nal control of the territory to the Palestinian Authority. Former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, the candidate of the Fatah faction, won the January 2005 poll to replace the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The surprise victory of the militant Islamic movement Hamas in parliamentary polls in January 2006 led to heightened tension between the Palestinian factions. There were recurring bouts of violence between Hamas and Mr. Abbas's Fatah faction, raising fears of civil war. In February 2007, Hamas and Fatah agreed to form a government of national unity.

However, in June 2007 Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip, seriously challenging the concept of a coalition, which Abbas subsequently dissolved. Thus, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, are divided into a Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip and a Fatah civil leadership in the autonomous areas of the West Bank. Each sees itself as the administrator of all Palestinian territories and does not acknowledge the other one as the official government of the territories. The Palestinian territories have therefore de facto split into two entities.

Mission in India: Embassy of the State of Palestine, D-1/27 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057. Tel: 26142859, 26146605; Telefax: 26142942.

E-mail: embassy@palestineindia.com

Indian Mission in Palestine: Representative office of India, 182-49, Shurta Street, Al Remal, P.O. Box. 1065, Gaza City, State of Palestine. Tel: 00-972-87-2825423, 2838199; Fax: 00-972-87-2825433.

E-mail: roi_gaza@trendline.co.in

1 = 10 Billion

When the Zimbabwe Central bank, overwhelmed by inflation in the millions of percentile, cut 10 zeros from the currency in July, 2008, and reintroduced coins made obsolete in 2002, a one dollar-coin was worth 10 b. of the old dollars.

em Cyprus unilaterally declared independence in 1983. It has been named 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.'

The Republic is not internationally recognised although it does have trade relations with some countries. There is a 50-strong Legislative Assembly.



2. Kosovo

(Republic of Kosovo)

Capital: Pristina; **Other large Cities:** Prizren, Pec; **Area:** 10,857sq km; **Population:** 2,126,708; **Languages:** Albanian, Serbian, Bosniak, Turkish, Roma; **Religions:** Muslim, Serbian Orthodox, Roman Catholic; **Literacy:** 94%; **Life Expectancy:** 64; **p.c.i.:** \$1,800; **Date of Independence:** 17th February, 2008; **Government Type:** Republic; **Head of State:** Fatmir Sejdiu; **Head of Government:** Hashim Thaci.

History: Kosovo, an impoverished territory with a population of mainly ethnic



Albanians, unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in February 2008. The territory immediately won recognition from the United States and major European Union countries. But Serbia, with the help of Russia, has vowed to block Kosovo from getting a United Nations seat.



Serbia's defeat at the battle of Kosovo in 1389 ushered in centuries of rule under the Muslim Ottoman empire. Serbia regained control of Kosovo in 1913, and the province was incorporated into the Yugoslav federation. Serbs and ethnic Albanians vied for control in the region throughout the 20th century.

Economy: Kosovo's people are the poorest in Europe. Remittances from the diaspora account for about 30% of GDP. Economic growth is largely driven by the private sector - mostly small-scale retail businesses. Minerals and metals - including lignite, lead, zinc, nickel, chrome, aluminium, magnesium, and a wide variety of construction materials - form the backbone of the industry. Unemployment - at more than 40% of the population - is a severe problem that encourages outward migration.

3. Palestine

The historic declaration of an independent Palestine comprising West Bank of river Jordan and Gaza strip was made by Yassar Arafat, leader of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Nov. 15, 1988 in Algiers. Palestine's headquarters were in Tunis until Arafat came to Jericho in 1994. Population of Palestine is 3.5 m.

Prevalence of Dementia

Recent estimates suggest that over 24 m. people live with dementia worldwide. As many as 4.6 m. new cases are added every year. In India the prevalence is 7.5 p.c. in the urban and 10.6 p.c. in the rural population.

ictory in the island's first direct presidential election.

Taiwan has one of the world's strongest economies and is among the 10 leading capital exporters. Taiwan has foreign exchange reserves worth over \$175 b.

According to an official source, Taipei wants to be reunited with China, but not at present. Taiwan is interested in joining international organisations. In Aug. '99, China accused Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui of taking a 'dangerous' step towards splitting the country. Teng-Hui said 'One China' was possible but only under a democratic union with China's mainland. China threatened to invade Taiwan if the President's statehood call was made the official stand.

Economy: The main agricultural products are rice, tea, sugar, sweet potatoes, bananas, jute and turmeric. Camphor secured from forests is a government monopoly. Industries comprise iron works, glass, soap, textiles, clothing, electronics, chemicals, plastics and processed foods. Coal, marble, petroleum and natural gas are the principal minerals. Taiwan has made big progress in agriculture and industry and the living standards have gone high, as a result of land reform, government planning, free universal education and U.S. aid and investment.

More than half a century of Nationalist Party rule ended when Opposition leader Chen Shui-Bian (Democratic Progressive Party) was elected in March, 2000).

6. Vatican City

(The Holy See)

Sato della Cittadel Vaticano

Capital: Vatican City; **Area:** 0.4 sq. km.; **Population:** 900; **Languages:** Latin and Italian; (All languages accepted);

Religions: Roman Catholic; **Literacy:** 100%; **Date of Independence:** 11th February, 1929.



Government Type: Ecclesiastical; **Supreme Pontiff:** Pope Benedict XVI (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger). **Secretary of State:** Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

The Vatican city state, sovereign and independent, is situated on the Vatican hill, on the right bank of the Tiber, within the commune of Rome, Italy. It is completely surrounded by Italy.

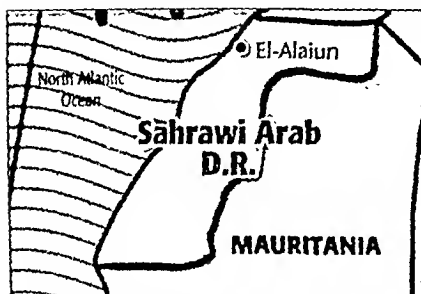
Vatican City, the City of the Pope, includes St. Peter's Cathedral, Vatican Palace and Museum, the Vatican Gardens and neighbouring buildings. Vatican has its own railway station (for freight only), postal system, police, coins and radio. Radio Vaticana broadcasts an extensive service in 34 languages.

The city state is governed by a commission appointed by the Pope, who has full legal, executive and judicial powers. The reason for its existence is to provide an extra-territorial, independent base for the Holy See, the government of the Roman Catholic Church. In Dec. '93, the Vatican and Israel agreed to establish formal relations. In March, 1997 Vatican established diplomatic ties with Libya.



4. Sahrawi Arab Demo. Rep. (S.A.D.R.)

Capital: El-Alaiun; **Area:** 266,000 sq.km;
Population: 382,617; **Languages:**
Arabic; **Religions:** Islam.



President: Mohammed Abdel Aziz;

PM: Mohamm-ed Lamine.

History: The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic set up by the Polisario Front, a liberation movement in Western Sahara, is a territory that came under Morocco's control after Spain withdrew. Algeria supported the Polisario-led struggle for independence. India accorded recognition to the new government on Oct. 1, 1985.

The UN will conduct a referendum in Western Sahara on whether the territory should become independent or remain part of Morocco.

Economy: Western Sahara has rich phosphate deposits. Most of the land is desert.

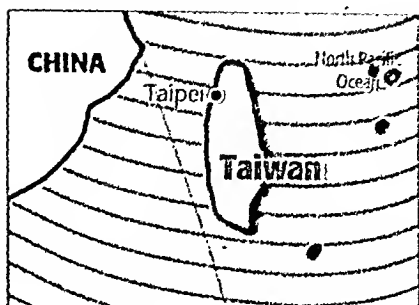
5. Taiwan

(Republic of China)

Chung-hua Min-kuo

Capital: Taipei; **Other Large Cities:**
Kaohsiung, Taichung; **Area:** 35,981

sq.km.; **Population:** 22,920,946; **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese, Taiwan, Hakka dialects; **Religions:** Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist-93%, Christian-5%; **Literacy:** 96.1%; **Life Expectancy:** 77.76; **p.c.i.:** \$ 29,800.



Government Type: Democracy;
President: Chen Shui-bian. **PM:** Chang Chun-hsiung.

Taiwan, off southeast coast of China and formerly known as Formosa, includes the island of Taiwan, two offshore islands Quemoy and Matsu, and the nearby islets of the Pescadores chain.

History: Originally Taiwan and adjoining areas were Chinese territory. In 1950, Chiang Kai Shek made Taiwan the headquarters of the Nationalist Republic of China. Although Taiwan still claims to be the legal government of China it lost its membership in the UN and its permanent seat in the Security Council to Communist China in 1971. In 1987, martial law was lifted after 38 years and in 1991, the 43-year period of emergency rule ended. In May, '96 Lee Teng-Hui stormed to a resounding



Books, Not Ice

Iceland publishes more books than any other country in the world. People of Iceland are enthusiastic users of the internet.

Trusteeship Council, Economic and Social Council and International Court of Justice.

General Assembly

The Assembly consists of the representatives of all the member states. Each state has one vote, but may send 5 representatives. The General Assembly meets at least once in a year. It elects its own President and Vice Presidents every year.

Security Council

Security Council consists of 15 members, each of which has one vote. There are five permanent and 10 non-permanent members elected for a 2-year term by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. The permanent members have the power to veto any move. Retiring members are not eligible for immediate re-election.

The Presidency of the Security Council is held for one month in rotation by the member states in the English alphabetical order of their names.

Permanent Members: China, France, Russia, UK, USA. Non-permanent Members: Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia (until Dec. 31, 2007), Belgium, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, South Africa (until Dec. 31, 2008).

The expansion of the Security Council to include 'new powers' such as India, Germany and Japan as permanent members has been suggested by various fora.

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (54 members) is responsible under the General Assembly for carrying out the functions of the United Nations with regard to international economic, social, cultural,

educational, health and related matters. The Council's Regional Economic Commissions: ECE (Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva); ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok); ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile); ECA (Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa). ESCWA (Economic Commission for Western Asia, Amman, Jordan).

Trusteeship Council

The Charter provides for an international trusteeship system to safeguard the interests of the inhabitants of territories which are not yet fully self-governing and which may be placed thereunder by individual trusteeship agreements. These are called trust territories.

All of the original 11 trust territories have become independent or joined independent countries.

Members: China, France, Russia, UK, USA.

International Court

The International Court of Justice was created by an international treaty, the Statute of the Court, which forms an integral part of the United Nations Charter. All members of the United Nations are ipso facto parties to the Statute of the Court. There are 15 judges. Headquarters: The Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands.

The 15 judges are elected for 9-year terms by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Retiring judges are eligible for reelection. The court remains permanently in session, except during

The Birth of the Commonwealth

As countries began to win their independence, the British empire which covered about a fifth of the world's land area in the late 19th century, began to evolve into a free association called the Commonwealth.

The United Nations

The name 'United Nations' was devised by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 Jan. 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

The United Nations is the hope and conscience of the world, more especially of the smaller nations among its 192 members. It is an association of states which have pledged themselves to maintain international peace and security and co-operate in solving international political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems towards achieving this end.

The United Nations Charter, the constituting instrument of the UN, was drawn up by the representatives of 50 countries at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation, which met in San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, DC) from 21 Aug. to 28 Sept. 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into

existence on 24 Oct. 1945, with the deposit of the requisite number of ratifications of the Charter with the US Department of State. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 Oct. each year.

New Member States are admitted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. Tuvalu was admitted in Sept. 2000 as the 189th member. East Timor was admitted as a member of the UN in September, 2002. Switzerland joined the world organisation in the same month. Montenegro became a UN member on 28 June, 2006.

In 1971 Communist China was admitted as the representative of all China. Red China thus became a permanent member of the Security Council. Taiwan lost its primary membership of the UN. Vatican is a permanent observer.

Official languages of the UN are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Flag of the UN: On the flag is the UN emblem in white centred on a light blue ground.

The UN has a post office originating its own stamps. Some 52,000 people work in the UN system.

The Secretary General of the UN and the UN were jointly given the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2001.

Headquarters: First Avenue, 17 Floor, New York City, USA.

Principal Organ of the UN: General Assembly, Secretariat, Security Council,

Yalta Conference

Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin met at the Crimean health resort of Yalta, among other things to discuss the future of the United Nations.

on in July 1943 to plan the FAO, which
e into being on 16th October 1945.
nsors the World Food Programme.

Q: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00 Rome, Italy.

Website: <http://www.fao.org>

Director-General: Jacques Diouf (Sen-
)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Conference for the establishment of
Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organisation of the United Nations was
vened by the Government of the UK
association with the Government of
nce, and met in London, 1 to 16 Nov.
15. UNESCO came into being on 4
v. 1946.

HQ: UNESCO House, 7 Place de Fon-
toy, 75352 Paris 07SP, France, .

Website: <http://www.unesco.org>

Director General: Koichiro Matsuura
(Japan).

World Health Organisation (WHO)

International Conference, convened
the UN Economic and Social Council,
consider a single health organisation
ulted in the adoption on 22 July 1946
the constitution of the WHO.

HQ: Avenue Appia 20, CH-1211 Ge-
va 27, Switzerland

Rgl. Offices: Alexandria, Brazzaville,
openhagen, Manila, New Delhi, Wash-
gton.

Website: <http://www.who.int>

Director-General: Dr. Margaret Chan
(Korea)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund was
established on 27 Dec. 1945 as an inde-
pendent international organisation and
began operations on 1 March 1947. The
IMF aims to preserve economic stability
and to tackle-or ideally prevent - financial
crises. Over time, its focus has switched
to the developing world. HQ: 700 19th
St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20431, USA
Offices in Paris and Geneva.

Website: <http://www.imf.org>

Managing Director: Rodrigo de Ra-
(Spain)

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Conceived at the Bretton Woods Confe-
rence, July 1944, the 'World Bank' began
operations in June 1946. The World Bank
is a vital source of financial and technical
assistance to developing countries around
the world. The World Bank is made up
of two unique development institutions
owned by 185 member countries - The
International Bank for Reconstruction and
Development (IBRD) and the International
Development Association (IDA).

HQ: 1818 H. St. NW, Washington
D.C., 20433, USA

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org>

President: Robert B. Zoellick

International Development Association (IDA)

A lending agency which came into exis-
tence on 24 Sept., 1960. Administered
by the World Bank, IDA is open to all
members of the Bank.

Seabed Authority

International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an international organisation established in
1984 for the management of effects of exploration

Executive Director: Achim Steiner (Germany).

Relief Agencies

Among the organisations involved in relief activities are the Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Commissioner-General: Giorgio Giacomelli.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established by the UN General Assembly with effect from 1 Jan. 1951.

For its work on behalf of refugees around the world, UNHCR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1955 and again in 1981.

HQ : Palais de Nations, 1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland.

High Commissioner: Antonio Guterres (Portugal)

High Commissioner for Human Rights

The post was established in 1993. The Commission has 53 members.

High Commissioner : Louise Arbour (Canada)

Specialised Agencies

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), came into existence on 29 July

UN Secretaries General

Year	Name	Nation
1946	Trygve Lie	Norway
1953	Dag Hammarskjöld	Sweden
1961	U Thant	Burma
1972	Kurt Waldheim	Austria
1982	Javier Peres De Cuellar	Peru
1992	Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali	Egypt
1997	Kofi Annan	Ghana
2007	Ban Ki-moon	South Korea

1957. Member States: 138.

HQ : Vienna International Centre, P.C Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Website: <http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom>

Director-General: Mohamed El Baradei (Egypt).

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), provides developing and underdeveloped countries with advice on all aspects of industrial policy. Converted into a specialised agency of UN in 1985.

HQ: Vienna International Centre P.O.Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Website: <http://www.unido.org>

Director-General: Carlos Alfredo Magarinos

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The UN Conference on Food and Agriculture in May 1943, at Hot Springs, Virginia set up an Interim Commission in Wash

UNPO

UNPO is an organisation created in 1991 by nations and peoples around the world who were not represented in UN, etc. Armenia, Belau, Estonia, Georgia and Latvia, former members, gained representation in UN later.

World Trade Organisation

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is an international body whose purpose is to promote free trade by persuading countries to abolish import tariffs and other barriers. As such, it has become closely associated with globalisation.

Based in Geneva, the WTO was set up in 1995, replacing another international organisation known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The WTO has a much broader scope than GATT regulated trade in merchandise goods, the WTO also covers trade in services, such as telecommunications and banking and other issues such as intellectual prop-

de Lausanne, CH-1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.wto.int>

Director General: Pascal Lamy (France)

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

The Convention establishing WIPO was signed at Stockholm in 1967 by 50 countries, and came into force in April 1970. In Dec. 1974 WIPO became a specialised agency of the UN.

HQ: 34, Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.wipo.int>

Director General: Dr. Yassir Kassis (Lib)

International Finance Corporation

International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an affiliate of the World Bank. Established in July 1956.

HQ: 1850 Ist., NW, Washington, D.C., 20433, USA. Website: <http://www.ifc.org>
Executive Vice President & CEO: Lars Thunell (Sweden)

International Civil Aviation Organisation

International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) formed in Nov-Dec. 1944.

HQ: 999, University Street, Montreal, QC, Canada H3C 5H7.

Website: <http://www.icao.org>

Secretary-General: Dr. Taieb Cherif (Algeria)

Universal Postal Union

Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established on 1 July, 1875, when the Universal Postal Convention adopted by the Postal Congress of Berne on 9 Oct. 1874 came into force.

HQ: Weltpoststrasse 4, 3000 Berne 5, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.upu.int>

Director-General: Edouard Dayan (France)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telegraph Union, founded in Paris in 1865, and the International Radiotelegraph Union, founded in Berlin in 1906, were merged by the Madrid Convention of 1932 to form the ITU.

HQ: Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva-20, Switzerland. Website: <http://www.itu.int>

Secretary-General: Dr. Hamadoun Toure (Turkey)

International Labour Organisation

International Labour Organisation (ILO) established in 1919 as an autonomous part of the League of Nations, is an intergovernmental agency with a tripartite structure, in which representatives of governments, employers and workers participate. In 1969 the organisation won the Nobel Peace Prize. Has 150 members.

HQ: International Labour Office, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.ilo.org>

Director-General: Juan Somavia (Chile).

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

Conference of Directors of the International Meteorological Organisation (set up in 1873), meeting in Washington in 1947, adopted a convention creating the WMO.

HQ: Case Postale 2300, CH-1211 Geneva-2, Switzerland.

Secretary-General: Michel Jarraud (France)

The International Maritime Organisation

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) was established as a specialised agency of the UN by the UN Maritime Conference at Geneva in Feb./Mar. 1948.

HQ: 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, UK. Website: <http://www.imo.org>

Secretary-General: Efthimios Mitropoulos (Greece)

Founders of Commonwealth

The Commonwealth's founder members were Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Newfoundland and South Africa.

Secretary-General: Edwin W. Car-
ngton (Trinidad and Tobago)

Commonwealth of Independent States

Commonwealth of Independent States
(CIS), created Dec. 1991 upon the dis-
banding of the Soviet Union. It is made
up of 12 of the 15 former Soviet consti-
tuent republics. Members in 1995 were
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Rus-
sia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine,
and Uzbekistan. The capital of the com-
monwealth is Minsk, Belarus.

HQ: 220000 Minsk, Kirava 17, Be-
larus

Website:<http://www.cis.minsk.by>

Executive Secretary: Vladimir Rushailo.

The Commonwealth

Formerly known as the British Common-
wealth of Nations, the Commonwealth
is a loose associaton of former British
colonies, dependencies and other terri-
tories - and Mozambique, which has no
historical ties to Britain.

The Commonwealth has no con-
stitution or charter, but the heads of
government of its member states hold
Commonwealth Heads of Government
Meetings(CHOGM)every two year to dis-
cuss issues of common interest.

Founded : 1931

Members: 53 states

HQ (Secretariat): Marlborough House,
Pall Mall, London. SW1Y 5HX,UK.

Website:[http://www.thecommon-
wealth.org](http://www.thecommon-
wealth.org)

Secretary-General: Donald C McKin-

non (New Zealand).

European Union known as the European Community

Members (27): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria,
Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Esto-
nia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece,
Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,
Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Ro-
mania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,
The Netherlands, United Kingdom.

The European Union (EU) is a sui
generis political body, made up of 27
member states.

European Union was known as the
European Community (EC) until 1994.
The name covers 3 organisations with
common membership: the European
Economic Community (Common Mar-
ket), European Coal and Steel Com-
munity, and European Atomic Energy
Community (Euratom). The European
Union covers a large part of the con-
tinent of Europe. Between 1973 and
2007 there have been six waves of en-
largement bringing the current mem-
bership up to 27. The founding mem-
bers of the community were Belgium,
Netherlands and Luxembourg (who
already co-operated as Benelux coun-
tries), France, Italy and West Germany.
In 1973 the communities enlarged to in-
clude Denmark, Ireland and the United
Kingdom. Greece, Spain and Portugal
joined in the 1980s. In 2004, its mem-
bership increased from 15 to 25. The
ten new countries which joined the EU
in 2004 are: Cyprus, the Czech Repub-
lic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania,
Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Institute for Democracy

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), cre-
ated in 1995, seeks to promote and develop sustainable democracy world-wide.
IDEA has its headquarters in Stockholm.

The Secretariat has its seat in Cairo.
Secretary General: Amr Moussa (Egypt).

Asia-Pacific Economic

Co-operation

Members (21): Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the U.S. and Vietnam.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) was founded in 1989 to further co-operation on trade and investment between nations of the region and the rest of the world. Headquarters: Singapore.

Website: www.apec.org.

The Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was initially sponsored by the ECAFE and started functioning in 1966. It has 59 member countries—43 regional and 16 non-regional members.

In June 1974, ADB launched the Asian Development Fund (ADF) with a view to providing concessional credits to needy members.

HQ: 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

Website: <http://www.adb.org>

President: Haruhiko Kuroda (Japan).

The Association of South East Asian Nations

Members (10): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organisation formed by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand through the Bangkok Declaration which was signed by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries on 8th Aug., 1967. Its aim is to accelerate economic progress and maintain the economic stability of South East Asia. Members in addition to the above five: Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam.

HQ: POB 2072, Jakarta 12110, Indonesia.

Website: <http://www.asean.or.id>

Secretary-General: Ong Keng Yong (Singapore)

Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Associate members in 2007 were Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Established in 1973. Its aim is to increase co-operation in economics, health, education, culture, science and technology and tax administration, as well as the coordination of foreign policy.

HQ: Bank of Guyana Building, PO Box 10827, Georgetown (Guyana).

Website: <http://www.caricom.org>

UNESCO Institutes

There are 12 separate UNESCO institutes : the International Bureau of Education (IBE), in Geneva, the Unesco Institute for Education (UIE), in Hamburg, the Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) in Moscow, and The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in Trieste are some of them.

from neighbouring states and from Islamic terrorism.

The GCC was formed in May 1981 against the backdrop of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the Iraq-Iran war. Its members share similar political systems and a common social and cultural outlook. They are autocratic monarchies or sheikhdoms, with limited or non-existent political participation.

HQ: Riyadh (Saudi Arabia).

Sec. Gen: Abdul-Rahman Al-Attiyah

The International Air Transport Association

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) was founded in 1945 to promote safe, regular and economical air transport and to provide a forum for collaboration. Members are international and domestic airlines.

Main offices: IATA Centre, Route de l'Aéroport 33, PO Box 416, CH-1215 Geneva, Switzerland; 800 Place Victoria, PO Box 113, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4Z 1M1; 77 Robinson Road, #05-00 SIA Building, Singapore 068896.

Website: <http://www.iata.org>

Director-General: Giovanni Bisignani

INTERPOL

Interpol is the world's largest international police organisation, with 184 member countries. Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organisations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.

HQ: Quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, France.

Website: <http://www.interpol.int>

Secretary-General: Ronald K. Noble

Mercosur

Mercosur is South America's leading trading bloc. Known as the Common Market of the South, it aims to bring about the free movement of goods, capital, services and people among its member states.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

Members (26): Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Formed in 1949 to counter the threat of post-war communist expansion as the Soviet Union sought to extend its influence in Europe, Nato is the world's most powerful regional defence alliance.

The original twelve members of NATO in 1949 were the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. The organisation expanded to include Greece and Turkey in 1952 and West Germany in 1955. However, thereafter, the alliance was militarily dominated by the United States.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland became the first former Warsaw Pact countries to gain Nato membership in 1999. The next historic step came in 2004 when Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, republics of the USSR until it

Amnesty International

Every year AI produces a global report detailing human rights violations in all regions of the world. Its national sections and local volunteer groups are primarily responsible for funding the movement.

Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. Expansion is almost certain to continue. Entry talks are ongoing for Croatia and an application from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is in the pipeline. Talks over Turkey's possible accession began in October 2005.

The euro is the currency of 13 European Union countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Finland.

HQ: 200 rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

President, European Commission: Romano Prodi (Italy).

Website: <http://www.europa.eu.int>

Sec. Gen.: David O'Sullivan (Ireland)

European Economic Area

European Economic Area (EEA) came into existence from Jan. 1, 1994 as a preliminary step of a proposed merger of European Free Trade Area and EC over the coming decade.

European Space Research Organisation

European Space Research Organisation (ESRO) was formally established in 1964 to promote collaboration among European States in space research and technology exclusively for peaceful purposes. The members are Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and UK. Austria, Ireland and Norway participate as observers.

HQ: Paris.

French Community

French Community offers to the French overseas territories, which manifest their will to adhere to it, new institutions based on the common idea of liberty, equality and fraternity and conceived with a view to their democratic evolution.

Independent members of the Community are: French Republic, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Senegal, Chad, Madagascar, & Djibouti.

Group of Eight

With no headquarters, budget or permanent staff, the Group of Eight is an informal but exclusive body whose members set out to tackle global challenges through discussion and action. The G8 comprises seven of the world's leading industrialised nations, and Russia.

- Founded: 1975, Rambouillet, France

- Original Members: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US.

- Later Members: Canada (joined at 1976 summit, San Juan, Puerto Rico), Russia (joined at 1998 summit, Birmingham, UK)

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC)

Members (6): Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. The Gulf Co-operation Council, or GCC, is a loose political and economic alliance made up of six Gulf states. It aims to boost economic cooperation between members and, through collective security, to guard against any threat

International Criminal Court

It is a permanent court with headquarters in The Hague for trying individuals who have been accused of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Navanethem Pillay of South Africa was one of the first 18 judges elected in 2003.

OECD) which was started immediately after the WWII for the reconstruction of war-ravaged European states. The OECD also collects and disseminates economic and environmental information.

HQ : 2, rue Andre Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org>

Secretary General : Angel Gurría (Mexico) (Canada)

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)

The Organisation was established in 1969. It has 57 members including Palestine.

The supreme body meets every third year. It aims to promote Islamic solidarity and co-operation.

Address: PO Box 5925, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Website: <http://www.oic-un.org>

Secretary General: Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu (Turkey)

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Members (13): Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) created in Sept., 1960, OPEC attempts to set world oil prices by controlling oil production. It also pursues members' interests in trade and development dealings with industrialised oil-consuming nations.

HQ: Obere Donaustrasse 93, A-1020 Vienna, Austria.

Website: <http://www.opec.org>

Secretary-General: Ahmad Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah (Kuwait)

Non-Aligned Movement

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is made up of 114 developing countries and aims to represent the political, economic and cultural interests of the developing world. The principles of non-alignment were defined in the Bandung (Indonesia) Declaration of 1955 and reiterated in the Brioni (Yugoslavia) Declaration of 1956 by Jawaharlal Nehru, Josip Broz Tito, and Gamel Abdil Nasser. The first Non-aligned Conference was held at Belgrade in 1961 in which 25 countries participated. The basic thrust of the movement is in favour of peace, disarmament, development, independence and eradication of poverty and illiteracy.

Chairman: Fidel Castro (Cuba).

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), comprises India, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. It was launched following the Dacca Summit in early December 1985.

HQ: POBOX:4222, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Secretary-General: Chenkyab Dorji (Bhutan)

Non-governmental Organisations Amnesty International

A world-wide human rights organisation, established on May 28, 1961 with a newspaper appeal by the British law

Slum-dwellers of Asia

Asia is home to 54 p.c. of the total number of people in the world living in slums, 56 p.c. of the world's undernourished and 58 p.c. of those without access to safe water.

collapse in 1991, along with Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania were welcomed as Nato members at a ceremony in Washington.

Croatia is expected to join in 2008 and Bosnia, Montenegro and Serbia have joined Nato's partnership for peace programme - a first step towards membership. Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have applied to join the alliance.

HQ : NATO, 1110 Brussels, Belgium.

Website: <http://www.nato.int>

Secretary-General: Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (Netherlands)

Organisation of American States (OAS)

The Charter of the OAS was adopted in April 1948, at Bogota. There are 34 members.

HQ : 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20006, USA.

Website: <http://www.oas.org>

Secretary-General: Jose Miguel Insulza (Chile)

Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)

The organisation has 10 members including Egypt which was readmitted in 1989. Other members: Algeria, Bahrain, Qatar, Libya, Iraq, Kuwait, UAE, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia.

HQ: PO Box 20501, Safat 13066, Kuwait

Website: <http://www.oapec.org>

Secretary-General: Abdul Aziz A. Al-Turki

Organisation of African Unity

(Now known as African Union)

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) came into being in May 1963.

Its chief objectives are unity and solidarity among African states, elimination of colonialism and defence of the independence of member states. OAU has 53 member-states. In July 2001, African leaders agreed on a plan to create the African Union (AU) to replace OAU. To be launched in July 2002, it will focus on economic and social development. AU, on the lines of E.U., is a pet project of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. In 2002, the new name African Union was adopted.

HQ : POB 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Official languages: Arabic, French, Portuguese and English.

Chairman: Denis Sassou-Nguesso (Congo)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Members (30): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and the U.S.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was formed in 1961 to replace the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation

Asia and Africa in the UN

In 1959, when the UN had 83 members, only 23 were Asian and 10 African. In 1945, only nine Asian and four African countries were UN members.

World Economy - A Millennium Perspective

Sethuraman Srinivasan

Former Chief Editor, PTI

The dawn of the 21st century generated fresh hopes for mankind for an era of enduring peace in which nations, representing two-thirds of the world, can promote their economic and social development, vanishing hunger and poverty, in a climate of greater international cooperation while taking advantage of the opportunities in globalisation - freer movement of trade and capital flows for investment.

Globalisation has not been an unmitigated blessing as it has over the years widened income disparities between the rich and poor nations as well as within the richer and low-income countries. Rapidly growing economies of China and India, for example, have now enclaves of prosperity surrounded by poor millions in hundreds. Yet, in a world of unequal relationships, most developing countries preferred to liberalise their economies for market opportunities. As the first decade of the new century (2000s) was nearing its end, the global environment was becoming even more challenging than in the past, especially for the poorer nations faced with soaring energy and food prices.

The expectations of the developing world for sustained growth were founded on assumptions of the global economy resuming its impressive performance during the greater part of the second half of the twentieth century, after the two cataclysmic world wars in which millions

perished. In the first fifty years, technological changes had driven growth in production of goods and services among the richer countries accounting for more than 70 per cent of the world output in that period described as a, 'Golden Age'. Dramatic falls in communication and transport costs helped to bring down trade and transaction costs, and became a key factor behind the growing integration of markets for goods, money and labour, especially since the 1980s.

China's economic reforms from 1978 with India initiating to era of liberalisation in 1991, set the stage for more and more developing countries to adopt reforms, although gradually, to the market-led path of development. Not all have succeeded in the process and many have had to encounter serious setbacks. Recent developments in the world economy such as the financial market turmoil have severely shaken now free markets with minimum regulation, but they reflect on the global economy. International institutions and the world bank and a number of other have come to realise the fact that developing countries must guard themselves against external shocks, strengthening their labour and foreign capital controls. Also, studies point out that there is no clear one-to-one relationship between higher growth or trade opportunities or poverty reduction and social policies aimed

G8 Time Capsule

The G8 leaders buried the summit documents and official correspondence in a time capsule at the luxury hotel in Tokyo, Japan where they met for their Japan 2008.

er Peter Berenson. Now it has more than 11,00,000 members in more than 50 countries with 6000 local groups in 70 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. It won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1977.

International Secretariat: 99-119 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 3RE, UK

Website: <http://www.amnesty.org>

Secretary General: Ms. Irene Zubaida Khan

Red Cross

International Society for relief of suffering in time of war or disaster. International Committee of Red Cross was founded (1863) on advocacy of J.H. Dunant (1828-1910). Delegates from 14 countries adopted Geneva Convention (1864), providing for neutrality of personnel treating wounded etc. Over 100 national Red Cross societies now exist. Awarded Nobel Peace Prize (1917, 1944, 1963).

HQ: 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Website: <http://www.icrc.org>

President: Jakob Kellenberger

Scouts and Guides

Scouting is a worldwide organised movement for young people started by an Englishman, Lieutenant General Sir Robert S.S. Baden-Powell (1857-1941) in 1907. He gave boys out-door skills which he had illustrated well in his book explaining scouting, tracking and map-making skills. The movement's goals include encouraging good character, loyalty to God and country, service to other

people and physical and mental fitness. "Be Prepared" is the slogan. The movement had about 13 million members in 115 nations in 1982. The World Scouts Bureau is in Geneva, Switzerland.

A similar movement for girls – the Girl Guide Movement – was founded by Baden-Powell and his sister Agnes in 1910.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation which was founded on June 14, 2001 by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Except for Uzbekistan the other countries had been members of the Shanghai Five; after the inclusion of Uzbekistan in 2001, the members renamed the organisation.

The main goals of the SCO are strengthening mutual confidence and good-neighbourly relations among the member countries; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science and technology, culture as well as education, energy, transportation, tourism, environmental protection and other fields; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; to move towards the establishment of a new, democratic, just and rational political and economic international order.

Secretary General: Nurgaliev Bolat Kabdylkhamitovich (Kazakhstan)

The War on Poverty

The record of poverty reduction as designed in the Millennium Development Goal project has not been satisfactory in Armenia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Laos, Mongolia and Uzbekistan. Poverty rose to 36 p.c. between 1996 and 2001 in Bangladesh.

management of the global economy. Such a system must provide greater space to countries for policy-making best suited to their circumstances without being urged to follow a single model.

In the global battle against poverty, economic growth by itself is not sufficient unless backed by policies which would make growth inclusive for a more equitable spread of incomes and benefits of social development like education, better health etc. Countries for their part must follow not only sound policies but also provide strong institutions and corruption-free governance. With over a billion people below the extreme poverty line defined as per person income less than one dollar a day the United Nations launched in 2000 the Millenium Development Goals 2015, a strategy aimed to halving the number of extreme poor by 2015 together with universalising primary education for children, ending gender discrimination, and providing better health care by combating contagious diseases. Half way through this strategy, progress in achieving targeted goals was uneven with some regions like sub-Saharan Africa falling behind in social indicators.

Global Setting

The richer nations continue to dominate the world economy though the rapidly growing Asian giants, China and India, is altering the balance in international economic relations. The end of the 40-year cold war between USA and USSR terminated East-West divisions but there was no peace dividend since it had no effect on military expenditure. The Soviet

socialist system failed to deliver the goods it promised to the people leading to its collapse. The break-up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics led to freeing of countries of Eastern Europe under Russian control and the autonomous constituents of the former Soviet Union declared their freedom and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Endowed with rich oil, gas and other mineral resources, the Russian economy, after some initial setbacks and financial crisis, picked itself up to set on a rapid growth path averaging 6-7 per cent in the first decade of the new century.

Communist China which opened its doors to the outside world in 1978 building a Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics became an economic miracle registering growth at 9 to 10 per cent per annum with significant reduction in poverty among its 1.3 billion people. It is now the world's third largest trading nation recording trade surpluses and boosting foreign exchange reserves totalling 1.3 trillion dollars by mid-2003. Starting late but catching up fast is India maintaining an average of 8.5 per cent annual growth in this decade, and the two Asian giants with 40 per cent of the world population have become major global players contributing nearly half of the annual growth of the world economy.

According to IMF calculations, the first decade has seen a significant rise in the share of developing countries in world output and export of goods and services. 31 advanced countries with 15 per cent of world population accounted for 55 per cent of world GDP while 141 emerging

The African Members of UN

Only four countries of Africa were members of the UN in 1945. These were Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia and South Africa.

inclusive growth.

The first decade of the new Millennium had a traumatic start with a devastating terrorist attack which reduced the World Trade Centre in New York to rubble on September 11, 2001, deepening the recession which the US economy had then entered and slowing down global growth after a heady start in 2000. After a six-year run of strong performance (2002-07), the world economy ran into complex problems in 2008 of restoring stability to the turbulent financial markets hit by the US housing and credit crisis, which depressed global asset markets and terminated the expansionary phase. IMF has forecast that the worst financial crisis in USA since the Great Depression of the 1930s is unlikely to be overcome before the end of 2009.

The decade marked the entry of China as a global economic power driving consumption and production and becoming manufacturing hub. It is the world's largest producer of grain, coal, steel, the second largest exporter after Germany and also now the foremost emitter of carbon into the atmosphere. India also started gaining global recognition as a major economic power with its manufacturing strength, global competitiveness and expertise in ICT with its booming software exports. These developments have reinforced the need for restructuring the international financial architecture and creating a more equitable economic system which accords due recognition to the growing importance of emerging market economies and ensures effective voice and representation for them in the

Decade Highlights

2000 I T-enabled Global Economy Hits Four Per Cent Growth

- UN Summit Launch of Millenium Development Goals 2015

2001 US Enters a Mild Recession

- Terrorist Attack on World Trade Centre, New York, September 11.
- US Invasion of Afghanistan in the War on Terrorism
- Doha Round of Development-Focused Trade Talks

2002 Economy On Path of Recovery amid US Corporate Scandals

- Monterrey Consensus on Financing of MDG 2015

2003 South-South Trade Becomes Major Driving Force

2004 Global Output Growth Back to 2000 Level

- East and South Asia a New Growth Pole

2005 First Signs of Turbulence in Financial Markets

2006 International Crude Prices on Climb

- Housing Markets Begin Slowdown

2007 Financial Markets in Prolonged Turmoils

- Fifth Consecutive Year of Global Expansion

2008 Soaring Oil and Food Prices Trigger Global Inflation

- Bleak Growth Scenario as Countries Fight Inflation
- Another Collapse in the Doha Round Negotiations

The Competitiveness Scale

UNIDO has ranked India 41st out of 100 economies in terms of industrial competitiveness. Pakistan is 55th, Bangladesh 67th and Sri Lanka 75th. Topping the list is Singapore.

ned momentum in the 2000s, the first decade of the 21st century has thrown major challenges, global in nature, requiring collective and co-ordinated deavours of all nations, especially in gard to securing energy and food security and making a transition, as painless as possible, to a carbon-free world to tackle global warming and preserve the environment. Equally daunting are the challenges posed by population growth with related ageing and migration problems and the burgeoning demand in the case of developing countries for commodities, oil, food, metals and other raw materials, reviving the earlier fears of limits to growth. There is now a global hunt by economic majors for more natural resources, energy, minerals and other raw materials which giant economies like China and India will need in order to maintain their tempo of development for the future.

These concerns have come to the top even as the world was revelling over the sustained global economic expansion averaging 3.5 per cent (on the basis of market-based exchange rates) until 2007 when the US housing mortgage defaults triggered the turmoils in international financial markets, leading to a credit squeeze, as investment corporations reported losses of hundreds of billions of dollars which they had to write down. Massive injections of funds by the Federal Reserve and other European Central Banks for the financial system did not help to bring about recapitalization of the near-bankrupt institutions. The resilient economies of Asia were becoming vulnerable to all the risks affecting investor sentiment and capital movements, through coun-

tries like China and India with substantial reserves were confident of weathering external shocks.

Yet another challenge is the faster spread of urbanisation. In emerging economies like India and China, a new sizeable middle class grew with greater purchasing power and changing life-styles alongside the diminishing but widely persisting poverty and hunger and disease in most developing nations. By 2008, half of the world population were in urban areas with towns and cities going bigger and new townships being built. Urbanisation poses massive problems of infrastructure development - roads, water, sanitation, electricity - and of transportation.

But the greatest challenge in the new century over the longer term is the climate change attributed mainly to increasing carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning over the last two centuries and the international community is called upon by the United Nations to negotiate a new global accord with mandated cuts in emissions by industrial countries, which hitherto were the principal emitters of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide) from fossil fuel burning, and targeted emission reductions by developing countries without disrupting their economic development and growth.

A new sense of urgency has been imparted to climate change issues and the debate is now on with a view to reaching a global accord in December 2009 which would commit the international community to the goal of reduction by half of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 over the 1990 levels. A UN-sponsored inter-governmental panel on climate change

A World Heritage Site in KSA

The first World Heritage site in Saudi Arabia is the Archaeological site of Al-Hijr, the largest conserved site of the civilisation of the Nabataeans south of Petra in

and developing economies with 85 per cent population accounted for 43.6 per cent of global output. Developed nations took a 66 per cent share of world exports and developing economies 34 per cent in 2007. The value of world output of goods and services had risen from 32 trillion dollars in 2000 to 54 trillion in 2007 (based on market rates of exchange). Despite two years of below 2 per cent growth in 2001 and 2002, the world economy had so far maintained a growth average of 3.5 per cent as against 2.7 per cent in the previous decade.

The world population crossed the six billion mark in the early years of the decade and was set to grow to 8 billion by 2025 and 9 billion by 2050. Over 90 per cent of increase will occur in the developing countries while the population in developed economies would remain stationary due to rapidly declining birth rates in some European and other advanced nations.

Global trade in merchandise and services has grown faster at an average of 12 per cent in the first decade (till 2007) with total value at over 16 trillion dollars. Spectacular advances have taken place in the decade in ICT (Information and Communications Technology). A notable feature of the first decade is the substantial increase in trade among developing countries (South-South) as well as scores of bilateral and regional trade agreements involving both developing and developed nations..

Foreign Direct Investment flows have risen to new levels touching 1.3 billion dollars in 2006 with China being the largest destination. With freer capital

movements, many developing countries have balanced their external deficits while some run small current account surpluses. China's surplus on trade has been 200-300 billion dollars a year. China and India are also investors in other countries and the outward flows are increasing. USA's chronic current account deficits, being the world's largest importer, are now being financed to a substantial extent by China and investments by oil exporters, especially Saudi Arabia, in US securities. USA long ago ceased to be the world's net creditor.

The US dollar has been losing value and this pushes up price of oil and other commodities denominated in dollars. It has also led to strong appreciation of the European Union's single currency, Euro. Oil prices had peaked to 147 dollars a barrel in July 2008 and had since remained volatile though the general expectation is for prices of oil and other commodities going through a boom would stay at levels higher than in the last decade.

There has been a breathtaking pace of expansion of telecommunications and information technology with the instant connectivity and mobile use becoming common even in remote rural areas. Millions of mobile phones and internet users are being added every year in this most dynamic growth sector which has already facilitated the development of e-commerce, and the information economy now covers every facet of human activity. India is a leading exporter of software and other IT-enabled services.

The Challenges

Even as global economic integration

Peaceful Iceland

According to Global Peace Index Survey, Iceland is the world's most peaceful country. Small, stable, democratic countries are the most peaceful, according to the index.

World Languages

There are thousands of languages in the world, but most of them have few speakers compared with the major tongues. Some experts predict that between 50 and 90 percent of the world's languages will become extinct this century. Languages need at least 100,000 speakers to survive.

Major Languages

Language	Speakers (in Million)	* Principal Areas		
Chinese, Mandarin	873	China, Taiwan	Javanese	75
Spanish	322	Spain, Latin America	Telugu	69
English	309	UK, USA, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand	Marathi	68
Hindi	180	North India	Vietnamese	67
Portuguese	177	Portugal, Brazil	Korean	67
Bengali	171	India, Bangladesh	Tamil	66
Russian	145	Russia, The CIS	French	64
Japanese	122	Japan	Italian	61
German, standard	95	Germany, Austria, Switzerland	Punjabi, Western	60
Chinese, Wu	77	China	Urdu	60
			Chinese, Yue	54
			Turkish	50
			Arabic, Egyptian	46
			Chinese, Min Nan	46
			Gujarati	46
			Chinese, Jinyu	45
			Polish	42
			Ukrainian	39
			Chinese, Xiang	36
			Malayalam	35
			Kannada	35
			75 Java (Indonesia)	
			69 Andhra (India)	
			68 Maharashtra (India)	
			Vietnam	
			North & South Korea	
			China, Japan	
			Tamilnadu (India),	
			Sri Lanka, Malaysia	
			France, Belgium	
			Canada, Switzerland	
			Italy	
			Pakistan	
			India, Pakistan	
			China	
			Turkey	
			Egypt	
			China	
			Gujarat (India)	
			China	
			Poland	
			Ukraine, Russia, Poland	
			China	
			Kerala (India)	
			Karnataka (India)	

World Religions

Religions evolved as a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe and grew as an organised system of beliefs that bound people to become a close-knit society.

Religion	World Population
1. Christianity	2.1 billion
2. Islam	1.3 billion
3. Secular / Nonreligious/ Agnostic/Atheist	1.1 billion
4. Hinduism	900 million
5. Chinese traditional Religions	394 million
6. Buddhism	376 million
7. primal-indigenous	300 million

8. African Traditional & Diasporic	100 million
9. Sikhism	23 million
10. Juche	19 million
11. Spiritism	15 million
12. Judaism	14 million
13. Bahai	7 million
14. Jainism	4 million
15. Shinto	4 million
16. Cao Dai	4 million
17. Zoroastrianism	2 million
18. Tenrikyo	2 million
19. Neo-Paganism	1 million
20. Interfaith Universalist	500 million
21. Buddhism	500 million
22. Christianity	500 million

has drawn attention to the stark evidence of planets warming with retreating glaciers, storms, cyclones and surges in sea level and other changes which could spell disaster in the latter half of the century and beyond.

Energy and food security have become principal concerns for import-dependent nations as the latter half of the decade experienced fuel and food prices scaling up to peak levels in the ongoing commodity boom which had also pushed up prices of minerals and metals. A global food crisis developed as some countries, notably USA, diverted corn for biofuel production while demand for foodgrains was rising in developing countries with higher per capita incomes. In the wake of the soaring prices of food, fuel and other commodities, inflation gripped all countries of the world, developed and developing, with several Asian countries moving into double-digit inflation, such as India, Indonesia, South Africa and the Philippines while China was also reeling from inflationary pressures with its consumer price index rising by 7 to 8 per cent in mid-2008.

Geopolitical Context

Alongside the economic challenges that the world is confronting, the outbreak of international terrorism with bombings and killings of innocent persons and causing large-scale destruction has radically altered the geopolitical situation in the new century. The September 11, 2001 terrorist strikes in New York when two hijacked aircraft were driven into the magnificent World Trade Centre, killing over 3,000 people of different nationalities, shocked

the world into realisation of the gravest challenge to humanity in unprecedented ways. India had its share of deadly bombings during 2008.

The United States, instantly responding to the terrorist outrage, declared a war on international terrorism and invaded Taliban-ruled Afghanistan providing sanctuary to the terrorist organisation led by Osama bin Laden. The whole world stood behind USA in the commitment to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. In March 2003, US President George Bush ordered invasion of Iraq whose dictator, Saddam Hussein, since overthrown and executed, was allegedly in possession of weapons of mass destruction. With insurgency and terrorism, Iraq continued to bleed with 150,000 US troops bogged down for over five years. There was no lowering of Middle East tensions essentially related to Israeli-Palestine conflict. Military expenditures of countries exceeded 1.2 trillion dollars in 2007, USA alone accounting for over 500 billion dollars of defence spending.

In the first decade (2001-10) the world made little progress in peace-building with no end of local wars and old conflicts in sight. UN endeavours had not produced peace and security nor did the world make any progress toward an equitable economic order commensurate with the growing weight of emerging economies and structural shifts in the global economy. The goal of universal disarmament and permanent security has thus remained as elusive as in the last century. There were growing fears of nuclear proliferation and weapons getting into the hands of terrorist gangs.

Walker who Lunches with the President

He is often invited to lunch with the President. Jefferson Pérez, champion walker and the only Ecuadorian to have won an Olympic medal (1996) has also been featured on a postage stamp.

higher harvests of cereals in 2007 was expected as global stocks needed to be replenished.

According to a joint study on agricultural outlook by OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) and FAO, even if prices lowered in nominal terms during the latter half of 2008, they would be much higher than the average levels over the last decade. The United Nations said that for most developing countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific region and in Africa, food prices were a bigger inflationary concern than for oil in as much food accounted for the bulk of expenditure of the poor people as well as for urban low-income consumers.

There has been a general neglect of agriculture in countries including India, which for some decades had been self-sufficient in food after the 'Green Revolution' of the mid-sixties though making marginal imports in years of bad weather and fall in buffer stocks. But the present crisis in agriculture is global though there is some controversy as to what has led to unprecedented rise in prices of all grains and other food articles.

Bio-Fuels - The Villain?

OECD and the World Bank cite the focus on corn-based biofuel production in USA and Europe as a major factor for the current global food crisis, along with the demand of the growing middle classes in emerging economies for better food and variety. The IMF also holds the view that a large part of the latest jump in food prices could be traced directly to biofuels policy though the Bush Administration contends

that only 3 per cent of the price rise could be attributed to biofuels. The World Bank, indirectly contradicting US contention, said biofuels had forced world food prices up by 75 per cent.

According to OECD, government support (subsidy) for biofuel producers in US, Canada and the European Union is expected to rise from 11 billion dollars in 2006 to 25 billion per year by 2015. Bio-fuel production is sustained by mandates on minimum share for it in transport fuel and higher production costs are passed on to consumers. Import tariffs also play a part in protecting the domestic industry from foreign competition. The report calls on these countries to go for alternate feedstock for production of biofuels or bio-diesel, as is being done in other countries, notably Brazil.

USA harvests 40 per cent of global corn crop and accounts for half of world exports. The amount of corn used for ethanol has grown from 6 per cent of domestic production in 2000 to an estimated 20 per cent in 2006 or roughly 55 million tonnes. 110 plants in 20 states are currently operating with 79 additional plants under construction, which would more double the total capacity, according to data from these sources.

Another study by a task force of the US Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington finds that preferential tariffs, subsidies and mandates contribute to the rise in American and European farmer preference for biofuel crops. It urges USA to act responsibly, de-couple food and energy issues and promote food and fuel security with accelerated efforts toward the next

Deaths from Unclean Water

A child dies every 20 seconds from diseases associated with a lack of clean water. That means, loss of 1.5 m young lives each year

World Food Crisis

Sethuraman Srinivasan

A World Food Crisis erupted in the early months of 2008 in the wake of record levels of grain prices reflecting a combination of factors - low global cereal stocks in 2006 due to production declines from drought and other climatic conditions, rising consumption demand in fast-growing developing countries, especially China and India, and the increasing diversion of land for corn used for production of bio-fuels in USA and Europe. Many traditional rice-exporting countries, threatened with food insecurity, enforced export curbs to improve domestic supplies and protect their poor and urban consumers.

Food prices had been on an up-trend through 2007 and by early 2008, they were 40 to 70 per cent higher over the previous year's level for all commodities - wheat, coarse cereals and rice. Such an unprecedented surge in food prices with the inflation shock it carried for all countries triggered global alarm, and the United Nations moved speedily to alert the world community for action plans to tackle the emergency needs of starving people as well as to draw up a medium-term strategy for revival of neglected and under-invested agriculture to raise farm incomes. The thrust would be on increased productivity, with a focus on small and marginal farmers and dry zones. UN called for well-coordinated global response and

for enlarged funding for agricultural, national, bilateral and multilateral efforts.

Inflationary Shocks

As an immediate measure to control inflation and ensure local availability, many rice-exporting countries including India (non-basmati rice) and Viet Nam imposed a ban on exports. Rice prices had skyrocketed by around 76 per cent between December 2007 and April 2008. International rice prices were expected to remain at relatively high levels, as stocks held by exporters would get reduced heavily and large importers would return to the international market to buy rice. An FAO spokesman said prices would remain extremely firm at least until the third quarter of 2008.

Coupled with the soaring oil prices, the inflationary shock for the low-income countries threatened macro-economic stability and worsened the plight of some 850 million people already hungry and under-nourished while UN estimated that the crisis would negate the gains in poverty reduction pushing at least 100 million below the poverty line.

Tight Supplies

Import needs of low-income deficit countries in 2008 were estimated to escalate to around 170 billion dollars, if prices remained high. But no moderating impact on prices and supplies of the

No to Mineral Water

London Mayor Ken Livingstone launched a blitz against bottled mineral water in Feb. '08, urging restaurant customers to ask for tap water.

EDUCATION **&** **CAREER**

generation of biofuels not dependent on corn. Strain on global supplies also comes from the rising demand from the growing middle class in China and India and the structural shift in global cereal demand will intensify, according to the study

Indian Situation

The boom in grain prices has driven farmers in richer countries to plant more and further increase the yields. For most developing countries, either the arable land is scarce as in parts of Africa or cultivable area has steadily declined due to land acquisitions for industrial or construction purposes over the years. The problem for a country like India lies in providing maximum possible support to farmers, especially small and marginal farmers and cultivation in dry zones. Degradation and loss of soil fertility with over-use of chemical fertilisers has also led to output stagnation.

In India, food production has wildly fluctuated according to the yearly monsoon conditions though there was a recovery in 2007-08 with foodgrain production estimated at 230 million tonnes. Government also maximised procurement, especially wheat in April-May 2008 (over 22 million tonnes) and the timely onset of monsoon in 2008 also generated some hope that at least the food price index would be relatively stable for the rest of 2008-09 even if the country continued to be in a state of high inflation.

Agriculture is basic for sustained growth of incomes in a country like India where some 600 million people are dependent on land.

For industrial nations, the primary sector is a mere 4 to 5 per cent of GDP. Relatively a smaller work force manages agriculture with government subsidies for production and exports and mechanisation of operations from sowing to harvesting. Thus, farmers in richer countries have attained high levels of productivity generating big surpluses for exports. But recent food and energy price surges have raised the consumer price index in developed nations as well posing a dilemma of inflation vs. growth for central bankers who have hitherto aggressively eased policy to keep economies from falling into recessionary conditions.

Harvests & Stocks

At the global level, grain harvests remained flat in 2005 and production fell in 2006 by about 55 million tonnes, affecting all the three major grain crops, wheat, corn and rice due to severe drought in Australia and adverse weather conditions in other regions including typhoons, flooding etc. According to the World-watch Institute, Washington (WWI), the global cereal stocks had fallen to a 25-year low of some 300 million tonnes by the end of 2007 though the improvement in 2007 and 2008 harvests were expected to help replenish stocks and ease the tight supply situation.

Corn, wheat and rice account for 85 per cent of global grain production with China, India and USA contributing 46 per cent thereof. FAO and other estimates indicate that roughly 48 per cent of grain goes for human consumption, 35 per cent for live-stock and 17 per cent for ethanol production.

Asia's Dismal Human Development

Four million children in Asia and the Pacific die before they reach the age of five. Around 545 m. people in the region consume less than the global standard of 2,200 calories per day.

Assessment Centres

To select appropriate and competent employees, a company or an organization will have to establish an assessment centre either on a continuous basis or as a temporary measure till the specific selection is over. Setting an assessment centre demands not only strategies and methods but also techniques to achieve the desired and set goals. An assessment centre needs competent assessors who not only perform in the expansiveness of the knowledge of conducting the processes of selections but also the nuances of identifying the right people, right defined as having qualities, competencies and other areas of human resource, both natural and developed, which combine together to create the personality of the candidate. The setting up of the assessment centre is essential and could even be virtual, without a physical office or permanent infrastructure. Some of these assessment centres are set up in the learning centres themselves and the selectors may visit such places to make it easier both for the organizations as well as the candidates.

Development centres

When a candidate goes through the processes and has to be told that her competencies are not satisfactory, or does not reach the benchmarks that have been set by the company, it is necessary that the candidate be told how she could reach that benchmark. It is only fair to the person, and it is only humane, to inform her at the end of the assessment how to develop different areas of human resource so as to reach the benchmark. This would

mean establishing a development centre along with an assessment centre.

The four stages of selections

A modern organization has two ways of selecting employees, especially executives, even when they could be technical performers. They may make their own selections or hire an agency to do the selections. Either way, the need is to locate and hire the best of the talents in the field. Selectors take the participant through four stages of the selection processes. First of all, they assess the quality of the application which includes the forwarding note or letter, curriculum vitae or resume or bio data and the relevant documents submitted by the candidate. Thereafter, they conduct written tests for them. Many times this takes the form of a technical test for posts that demand such knowledge or even a test of reasoning. Beyond this, group discussion is the third stage. The last is the interview.

Inadequacy and inevitability of the four stages

The four stages of selection processes used by modern organizations, undoubtedly, are not only inadequate but also unfair to the applicants. After all, two of them are written communication and the other two are oral communication. To judge a person's competence in a particular profession or job through his communication competence, which is only a medium of expression, is very unfair to the candidate. After all, a candidate who may be excellent in the technical areas of work need not be good at communication. However, keeping in mind

No TV While Eating

Mindless TV watching produces mindless eating. So, turn off the TV during meals, advises Toronto University nutritionist Harvey Anderson. With TV, kids took in 228 extra calories, he found.

Success and Effectiveness in Group Discussions and Interviews

Prof. Sunney Tharappan, Mangalore

Education provides for the resource development of an individual in three different dimensions. Primarily, it develops resourcefulness in a person to function effectively in a family, community, society or a nation. In addition, it prepares the person to become a responsible parent to continue the progeny by becoming a worthy parent. Simultaneously with



both, the person gets ready and equips herself with desired competencies to work as a professional. While all three are components of any educational or developmental intervention, and, while the first two are more important from a sociological point of view, in the modern world the last seems to project itself as the most important.

Competence

Competence is a status which is a combination of conceptual clarity and developed skills to function with it. A professional, no doubt, needs competencies to perform successfully and effectively, the latter undoubtedly being more important. The subtle difference between the two needs to be highlighted here. Many things done may be considered a success, yet need not be effective - one may have been successful in participating in a group discussion, but may not have been effective in the interactions if no one cared to consider what had been said. The same can be said of a candidate who successfully completes an interview without being effective enough to be selected. A corporate organization would like to employ people who not only bring with them success but also effectively function in the descriptions of the job offered. Naturally enough, while selecting an employee, the organization has to consider the effectiveness of the competencies that an individual has rather than trust the certification of an educational institution, which the candidate offers as a qualification. In a situation where the availability of job seekers is very high, most organizations and companies are many times at a loss to discover strategies, methods and techniques to assess the competence of people so as to be able to recruit them.

Success and Hair Style

US business magazine 'Fortune' says that most of the successful CEOs part their hair to the left. The list includes Indra K. Nooyi and Warren Buffett.

that this is the way of the corporates, either because they believe that they are capable of seeing beyond the communication competence, or because they don't have any other strategy or method available with them, it becomes necessary that candidates or aspirants for jobs prepare themselves to go through the four stages.

Written and Oral Communication

While the first and second stages are comparatively easier, the other two are more difficult. The former has the advantages of anonymity and preparedness for functioning. The latter needs on-the-spot resourcefulness and effectiveness to function and achieve success. The former can be done with the help of other people. The latter does not permit any external help. The former needs competencies that are developed in classroom conditions by the interventions of the teachers in regular teaching-learning processes. The latter demands beyond-the-classroom competencies that may not be developed through traditional assistance from teachers or regular learning systems. The former functions with the structures that are known in advance, the latter has to be performed with structures that may be created during the performance. Therefore, the latter-group discussions and interviews-needs greater attention.

Personality and its benchmark

A company would like to assess the levels of different competencies that a candidate has, so as to decide whether she is an able person. The ability of an

individual is a product of different streams of competencies combining together to make her not only bring out the potential but also become capable to perform. The congruence of competencies is the pivotal matter here because, otherwise, one competence may nullify the impact of another. Companies also need to discover not only the competencies of the candidate but also the status or the performance levels of various areas of human resource like values, interests, cognition, imagination or impressions of experience that either individually or collectively contribute to the making of the personality of the candidate. A selector does not only do an appraisal of the personality of the candidate but also matches it with the benchmark that is already set by the selector or his organization or company. This indeed is possible only when an observant selector scientifically looks at the potential, the capability, the competencies and the congruence of these, resulting in the ability of the individual. All these have to be done through the medium of communication among the candidates themselves on one hand and between the candidate and the selector on the other.

Picking from intellectual assemblies

Intellectual assemblies like debates, seminars, symposia, workshops, conferences, conventions or general meetings make use of discussions as a strategy for intellectual performances. While an aesthetic performer such as a singer has an advantage most times of a knowledgeable or involved audience who act

Indians in the US

There are about 84,000 Indian students in the US. American students in India number only 1,700. The Indian community in the US is 3 million-strong.

well as comprehending allow a person to respond appropriately. Identifying and recognizing the feelings of others and expressing one's own are skills that are important to be developed. Skills in the use of appropriate words and their juxtaposition create an impression on the listener. While challenging a fellow participant would ask for civil behaviour, recording appreciation too needs social skills.

Practice through participation

A candidate has to prepare herself for both - participation in group discussions and interviews. Different kinds of group discussions and interviews can be organized for practice sessions. An unobserved group discussion is for developing communication competence and an observed group discussion is for getting feedback. Group discussion for decision making or problem solving will demand different types of skills from a participant. The cognitive resource areas, especially those that support thinking and feeling, are essential factors that provide base support for participation in such activities.

Characters in group discussion

Different types of competencies are needed to deal with different characters who may participate in the group discussion. There are funny names which are given to these characters. There may be conspirators who may form a sort of syndicate in the group and support each other. Some become dictators who try to compel everyone to accept their ideas. Some others are middle-of-the-road buffalos who are unwilling to accept any logical



or rational communication. There are also multi-headed animals who may support diametrically opposed viewpoints. Yet another character is the wheel spinner, who continuously repeats her idea, often with a singular lack of grace. There are lawyers who always quote rules and regulations even after decisions have been made. A successful participant of a group discussion not only identifies these characters and deals with them directly, but also recognizes sincere doers and communicators who are very effective in their way of communication. A participant needs to learn to deal with each group discussion character separately. Sometimes, the ineffectiveness of different characters can combine in one participant and a successful interventionist needs an enormous amount of competence to deal with such participants.

Assessments at interviews

Interviews are meant for assessing five types of effectiveness in an individual - personal effectiveness, leader effectiveness, professional effectiveness, resource effectiveness and human effectiveness. The totality of the five different types of effectiveness being tested has to match the desired or expected totality of effectiveness.

Two doctors for 1,00,000 people

India has only six doctors for every 10,000 people, whereas the global average is 15. In Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, the rate is low as two doctors for 1,00,000 people.

voice used, as also the stress patterns, or even the modulation of the voice pitch matter while assessing the quality of the presentation. Being the first to speak in a group discussion exhibits initiative, and intervening to connect ideas presented by other speakers demonstrates intellectual qualities. Resourcefulness merges out of continuous practice in communication.

Communication competence

Candidates who participate in group discussions and interviews have to be aware of the need for developing communication competence so that the participation, while being assessed, provides for the expression of different areas of human resource and virtual presences like leadership, attitude or confidence. From this perspective, it should become the responsibility of the candidate to participate and exhibit different areas of resourcefulness, associated virtual presences, different competencies and a large number of qualities associated with all three. No selector can pick a good candidate to be employed unless the candidate goes out of the way to express herself so as to be judged by the selector.

Communication - major skills

Having recognized that the selector will assess the candidate through the competence of communication, it is necessary that every candidate should improve her communication competence. Communication is a competence that has three major skills. Primarily, it is a question of

the skills of the mind because one's style of expression, indeed the very contents of the mind, is converted into ideas only when the mind skills assist them. In addition, there is no doubt that the contents have to reach the recipient in a way that is acceptable and this is done successfully only when the matter is communicated with social skills. Natural enough, the third, the quality of the language used, allows the first two to function satisfactorily. Therefore, a combination of mind skills, social skills and language skills makes communication not only successful but also effective.

Communication - minor skills

While participating in a group discussion, a person needs many minor skills to make the three major skills effective. Influencing others through communication happens when one has skills in argumentation and refutation. Both are possible only when one has analytical skills. All three combined together produce the art of convincing. If communication demands linking of what has already been stated by another participant to one's own ideas, one needs to develop reporting skills. A participant becomes very successful when she is able to create vivid pictures in the minds of the listeners and this is a product of the skills of description of a communicator. It is also important to recall that communication becomes complete only when a person has skills to create congruence between and among the statements made and the non-verbals expressed. Specific skills in listening as

63% Dropouts

Percentage of school dropouts has been brought down considerably but at the secondary level it is as high as 63 percent. Only 9 percent of those who finished secondary education enter colleges. Less than two per cent get admission into professional courses.

"May I come in, please?"

Khyrunnisa A.

How do you face an interview? Ask any candidate who has attended more interviews than are good for him and he tries to hedge the issue by telling you rather sheepishly that there are interviews and interviews and every interview is different. This is doubtless true, but here are certain general preparations a prospective candidate could make and certain things he would do well to bear in mind before he steps into the hallowed premises where destiny awaits him in the form of an interview board. (At this point, before feminists begin protesting, I would like to clarify that when I say 'he' I mean 'she' too.)

sari and blouse for a female candidate or some cases a tie is optional. Sarees and not dowdy colours are the best bet. One better pay some attention to footwear too - well polished but not fancy shoes and socks for males and sensible women's shoes or chappals for girls. As for the hair, a Dhoni or an Isanti Shikha hairstyle might send spectators into raptures but is definitely not ideal for a candidate appearing for an interview. A sensible haircut and hair oil will do. A well combed shikha will give you the expression of the lady of the house without being over the top. A neat, clean, brown shirt and white trousers

ness for a particular employment.

The fact that this assessment has to be done through the medium of communication, in fact, makes the process difficult for the assessor or the selector. This assessment is possible, primarily by checking the knowledge or conceptual clarity of the candidate. In addition, the selector would also measure the different competencies that are available with the candidate and their status to assist the effectiveness. The interactions with the candidate help an interviewer identify the values and traits of the candidate. The interviewer will also assess the status of other areas of human resource, both natural and developed, as they are available, observable or checkable, with the candidate.

Supporting assessment of effectiveness

The interviewee's success is not in simply allowing an assessment of effectiveness, values, competencies or different areas of human resource. Her success would emerge from the demonstration of different virtual presences like leadership, attitude or confidence. This will be evident from the type of responses that a candidate would offer. Virtual presences like vigour or drive will easily be checkable from the answers given by participants to specific questions. The demeanor of a candidate walking in or seating herself, the voice pitch modulated while answering, the organization of ideas presented, the quickness of the presentations themselves, willingness to admit areas of ignorance and, more than anything else, the authenticity reflected

in the responses will all go a long way to impress an interviewer. A candidate's ability to engineer situations to one's own advantage, undoubtedly, will be an added asset while facing an interview.

Preparing for group discussions and interviews

Apart from going through the processes of expressing the contents of the mind, which includes what one has learnt through academic interventions, and genuine participation in different types of activities including the routine and the common place ones, the candidate has to specially prepare for group discussions and interviews. Taking care of one's appearance, understanding the dress code desired by the selectors and acting accordingly; appearing physically fresh while presenting oneself to the interviewers, being aware of the serial numbers of certificates or testimonials carried so as to present them while being asked; going through technical matter once again for easy recollection; and more than anything else, banking on one's faith in oneself to project the right attitude at the right situation, are all things that a candidate should note before participating in a G.D. or appearing for the interview.

More effective rather than successful

As strategies and methods for selection processes for employment, group discussions and interviews play an important role. It indeed is the preparedness of a candidate that assures success, that also guarantees effectiveness, and the resultant achievement.

Dropouts

25 per cent of children in India drop out of at the end of class V. By class X, the ratio goes up to 61 per cent.

general questions. Say you do not know only when you have absolutely no idea about what has been asked. And always be positive in your responses. Try not to sound diffident and casual. Keep your answers crisp and to the point. Nobody likes long-winded answers punctuated with ums and ers. When the interview is over, look at each interviewer and say a simple "Thank you very much." Don't spoil everything by making a smart aleck parting remark.

As far as group discussions are concerned you may have to talk on topics of general interest. See that your general awareness is sound. Be prepared also to talk about topics relating to the job you have applied for or the course you intend to pursue. Prepare your strategy on the basis of how many members form the group. If it is a big group you may have to be loud and forceful to make yourself

heard but there is no need to hog the discussion at the top of your voice. It is not shouting competition. Don't talk just for the sake of talking. Talk sense and don't be too argumentative. Speak because you have something new to offer - a point of view, some statistics, a sensible opinion or some irrefutable facts. You are being observed and graded not only for what you say but also for how you speak and how you listen and even how you interrupt. If the group is smaller, a quiet person too can make his presence felt for it is easier for all to get turns at speaking. At some discussions, each member of a group is asked to speak in turn before the topic is thrown for a general discussion.

Most important, whether it is an interview or a group discussion, remember the three 'Cs' and stay calm, cool and composed. Success is just round the corner. Good luck!

Premier Educational Institutions In India

This is an indicative list of reputed educational institutions that have excelled in various disciplines. The list is not exhaustive. It may be appreciated that a comprehensive list of centres of excellence in a ranked order is not practicable. Under each head, the institutions have been arranged alphabetically; there is no ranking involved. Students and parents may make further detailed study

in identifying institutions that suit their personal needs.

Medical Colleges

All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi; Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune; Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore; Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore; Grant Medical College, Mumbai; JIPMER,

GER of 11.6 p.c.

General Enrolment Ratio (GER) is the population of school-leaving children admitted to a college or university. GER in developed countries is 54 p.c., while the world average is 23.2 p.c. Currently it is only 11.6 p.c. in India. The immediate goal of the Government is to raise GER to 15 p.c. by the end of 2012.



w. So just be alert and watch how the interviewee is called. If you are led in there is no need to ask, "May I come in?" Be that rare commodity called common sense. Once you enter the room, wish the interviewer who may ask you to sit down. Thank him and do so. If he is preoccupied with something, you could ask, "May I take my seat?" or "May I sit down?" Be self-possessed. Try not to be flustered and ask as one candidate did, "May I take YOUR seat?" If the interviewer lacks a sense of humour and that could well be the case, you might have begun cooking your goose. Don't sit on the edge of the chair. Sit without slouching but don't look off and uneasy either. Look comfortable but never cocky. And it is better not to sit cross-legged at an interview for some do not approve of this. What to do with one's hands is a problem for many. The best thing to do is to rest them lightly on your lap. Never put your elbows on the table and lo! all over it. If there is more than one interviewer, look at each one when you address them. Making eye contact is very important. A shifty eyed candidate does not impress anybody.

Brush up your subject as part of your preparation. Some companies have two interviews - one a technical one and the other an HR. Be prepared to answer questions on your speciality, but do not worry too much though, often the questions will be very basic ones. The interviewers could of course ask you about your favourite subject and shoot questions based on that. So be careful and only mention those subjects you have some idea about, else you would be digging your own grave. They can ask you questions related to your project, your seminars etc too. They might sometimes ask about your marks and the reasons for the grades going down and such other uncomfortable questions. Be diplomatic in your answers.

As far as the HR leg of the interview is concerned, questions could range from describing yourself, your hobbies and why you chose this job to how you see yourself ten years from now and in what way you could make a meaningful contribution to your employers. Be confident, cool and composed. Never let on that there are butterflies in your stomach. Do not be hasty in answering and don't jump the gun. Think before you answer and think on your feet or on your seat. Listen carefully to the question and if you have not understood it, there is no harm in saying, "Excuse me, but could you please repeat the question?" Don't make a habit of this, though. Answer clearly and confidently without stammering. Try to give some answer to every question, especially the

A Unique Pay Package

The pay package of Indra Nooyi, the Indian born chief executive of Pepsi Co, is worth \$ 14.74 m. (in 2007). It includes \$ 1.3 m. in salary, \$ 3.2 m. in non-equity incentives, and nearly \$4,00,000 worth executive perks like flying on the company jet. She also has stock options and awards worth \$ 9.83 m. Coca-Cola's chief executive was paid \$ 21.65 m. as compensation in 2007.

n College, Chennai; Miranda House, Delhi; Mount Carmel College, Bangalore; Presidency College, Chennai; Presidency College, Kolkata; Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi; St Joseph's College, Bangalore; St Stephens College, Delhi; St Xavier's College, Kolkata; Stella Maris College, Chennai; St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

Journalism / Mass Commn.

Asian College of Journalism, Chennai; Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi / Dhenkanal; Manorama School of Communication, Kottayam; Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad; Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication, Pune; Times School of Journalism, New Delhi; Xavier Institute of Communication, Mumbai.

Agriculture

Educational institutions in the fields of agriculture, veterinary science, fisheries, forestry, sericulture, etc. function in the government sector under the agricultural universities. The full list is available in the web site www.icar.org.in

Ayurveda

Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar; National Institute Of Ayurveda, Jaipur; Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, New Delhi.

Design

National Institute of Design (NID), Paldi, Ahmedabad.

Fashion Design

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), at New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata,

Hyderabad, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Bangalore. Raebareli, Kannur, Bhopal, Shillong, and Patna .

Interior Design

Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad

Science

Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) - Kolkata & Pune; National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar.

PG Studies & Reserch In Science Subjects

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
Mumbai.

Architecture

School of Planning and Architecture
New Delhi

Acting

National School of Drama, New Delhi

Fine Arts

Govt College of Arts & Crafts, Chennai
J.J.School of Arts, Mumbai
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi - 110 025
Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati, Santiniketar
MS University, Vadodara

Film Institutes

Film & Television Institute of India, Pune
Film & Television Institute of Tamil Nadu
Chennai; Satyajit Ray Film & Televisior
Institute, Kolkata .

Finance Professions

Institute of Chartered Accountants of
India, New Delhi; Institute of Company

7.6 m children out of School

Currently about 7.6 million children are out of school. Even after 58 years, States have failed to fulfil their promise of providing free and compulsory education for all children until they completed the age of 14.

ducherry; King Edward Medical College, Mumbai; Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi; Madras Medical College, Chennai; Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi; PGIMER, Chandigarh; Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Porur, Chennai; St. John's Medical College, Bangalore.

Engineering Institutes/Colleges

BITS, Pilani; College of Engineering, Anna University, Chennai; Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, & Roorkee; Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad; Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu



University, Varanasi; National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal; National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai; National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Agartala, Allahabad, Bhopal, Calicut, Durgapur, Hamirpur, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jamshedpur, Kurukshetra, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rourkela, Silchar, Srinagar, Surat, Surathkal, Tiruchirappalli, & Warangal; Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh; Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala.

Business Schools

BIM, Tiruchirappalli; Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi; Indian Institute of Finance, Delhi; Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi; Indian Institute of Management (IIM) - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Indore, Kozhikode, Lucknow, & Shillong; Indian School of Business, Gachibowli, Hyderabad; Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai; MDI, Gurgaon; NMIMS, Mumbai; Symbiosis, Pune; XLRI, Jamshedpur.

Law Universities / Colleges

Amity Law School, Delhi; Chanakya Law University, Patna; Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow; Faculty of Law, AMU, Aligarh; Faculty of Law, BHU, Banaras; Faculty of Law, Delhi University; Government Law College, Mumbai; Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar; Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur; NALSAR, Hyderabad; National Law School of India University, Bangalore; National Law University, Jodhpur; National University of Juridical Science, Kolkata; NIKU, Bhopal; Rajiv Gandhi National Law University of Law, Patiala; Symbiosis Society's Law College, Pune; Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai.

Arts & Science Colleges

BM College of Commerce, Pune; Christ College, Bangalore; Daulat Ram College, Delhi; Ferguson College, Pune; Hans Raj College, Delhi; Hindu College, Delhi; Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata; Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi; Loyola College, Chennai; Madras Christ

Harry Potter in School

J K Rowlings first novel in the Harry Potter series, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' has been included in the A-level English language school syllabus in the U.K.

n science, introducing new disciplines, releasing more research grants exclusively for women scientists and opening tech-parks for women.

The chance for women to specialise in intellectual property rights is the fulfilment of a dream. It has the lure of money and recognition. Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) is one of the many institutes that offer training to women scientists in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Starting salaries in IPR range between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000 a month. A Ph.D holder with a law degree can earn as much as Rs. 8-9 lakhs a year. Flexibility of time encourages women to stay put in the profession.

Biotechnology opens up a host of opportunities. In order to encourage entrepreneurship among women in this sector, the government has set up the Golden Jubilee Biotech Park in Chennai. It has more than 12 entrepreneurs from the

women ideally suited for Public Relations, the same skills help them to excel in hospitality industry as well. The industry is set to offer 4,50,000 jobs a year from 2008 onwards. The number of women in this sector has already grown by 15-20 per cent. The industry is also growing sensitive to women's needs such as flexible working hours, sick and crib facility, maternal benefit and day care facility.

Travel and aviation is a sector which has literally taken women under its wing. ASSOCHAM study has found that this would require 25,000 to 30,000 staff. The crew and ground staff is 20% women. Foreign airlines are prefer women in the staff. Air starting salary is from Rs. 25,000 to 35,000. Women are given an chance to travel, meet people, work abroad and work in the field. Young women are encouraged to fly high.

Secretaries of India, New Delhi; Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India, Kolkata.

Hotel Management

Institutes of Hotel Management under the control of the National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Tech-



ology, New Delhi (26, Web site: www.ahmct.org; Oberoi Centre for Learning Development, New Delhi; Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Admin-

istration, Manipal.

Sports Coaching

National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala

Special PG Progrms In Medicine, Psychiatry

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore

Top Business Schools In The World

Columbia Business School U.S.A.; Harvard Business School U.S.A.; Insead France; London Business School U.K.; Kellogg's North-Western University; MIT Sloan School of Management U.S.A.; Stanford Graduate School of Business U.S.A.; University of Pennsylvania: Wharton U.S.A;

Prepared by
B S Warrior

Women Workforce on the Rise

A tell-tale evidence of emancipation of women in India is the rising participation of women in the workforce. It is at once the upliftment of the weaker sex and a boost to the national economy.

A recent study of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India, however, notes that the percentage of women in the workforce is still low, as low as 21.68% even though India has

the highest number of professionally qualified women. The study goes on to say that if the gender gap is narrowed, India could increase its per capita income by 10% by 2020.

While women have left their unmistakable imprint in certain traditional areas, efforts are afoot to make room for women in new areas as well. The government has set up a national task force for women

Cambridge-India Link

In order to celebrate the centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru's arrival at Trinity College, Cambridge to study natural sciences, Cambridge has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru Professorship of Indian Business and Enterprise, endowed by GOI.

The right answers along with three or four wrong answers (distracters) would be provided in the question paper. We do not have to recall answers from our memory, as the correct response is also given as part of the question. However in a multiple choice test, we have to exercise our power of discrimination in order to identify the right answer and discard the distracters.

Yet another difference is that competitive tests may have involved questions that may test our power for analysis or synthesis. They may have a stress on the application of known principles. In the entrance tests for admission to professional courses, a question may combine the principles in two very different areas in a subject. If we are familiar with the usual direct questions only, we may find it difficult to face a competitive test. We have to make specific preparation for each type of test, keeping in mind its style and standard. In any case, let us not make the test as a life and death struggle, since that would add to our tension which would spoil our logic. Then we may not be able to answer even questions in our favourite area.

DO NOT waste time before difficult questions. (If you are too ambitious to answer all the questions, you would waste your time over the hard ones. Better skip them and go to the next questions that may be easy. Usually all the questions would be compulsory and all of them would carry equal marks. Remember, you would be fighting against the watch; each second is precious. Never pave the way

for regret in the end for not being able even to read some of the easy questions for want of time.)

DO NOT waste time reading all the questions in the beginning. (All the questions would be compulsory. Read the questions one by one from the beginning - answer the easy and skip the tough. If you get free time after one round, do go for a second one.)

Subjects dealt with in competitive tests

Many of the subject areas from which questions are drawn for recruitment tests may not be in the curricula of schools or colleges. Most of the tests may have questions involving logical reasoning, and general knowledge / general awareness. Many questions from English or numerical ability or quantitative aptitude would be in styles that are totally different from those in academic examinations.

General knowledge or general awareness is another vast area that comprises two parts.

Traditional knowledge: This can be studied in advance. Topics such as the earth, solar system, world, countries, capitals, currencies, languages, geographical names - old and new, international organisations (UN, European Community, WTO, SAARC, OPEC, Interpol, Red Cross, etc.), books and authors, books and characters, inventions and discoveries, space travel, tallest / longest / first etc., nicknames of people and places, famous quotes, branches of knowledge, chemical names of common substances, scientific

TOEFL

The Test of English as a Foreign Language determines the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written and heard in college and university settings.

Strategies To Face Competitive Examinations

B S Warriar

Expert on Education and Careers

There are several competitive tests held at the national or regional levels for selection of candidates for jobs or for admission to educational institutions. Let us look at some examples.

Examinations held by the UPSC, State Public Service Commission, Public Sector Banks / Insurance organisations. Right from the Civil Services Examination to the selection of IFS / IAS / IPS officers, office assistants fall in this category.

Entrance examinations for selection of candidates to professional courses in medicine, engineering, etc. both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Tests such as MAT, XAT, CAT, ATMA, and JMET for admission to Business Schools.

National Eligibility Test for the selection of candidates for Lectureship and Junior Research Fellowship.

Tests such as GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, IELTS, SAT, LSAT, MCAT, USMLE, PLAB, GGS, and NCLEX-RN held at the global level for the selection of candidates for academic programs, or for certifying competency in specific areas of knowledge and skills.

Academic examinations vs competitive examinations

School / College examinations measure the knowledge or skills of the candidates with reference to certain fixed standards, and award marks, pass, class, distinction,

etc. Competitive tests rank the candidates based on their relative merit; there is no 'pass' or 'failure'; there are only ranks. Questions in most competitive tests are of the multiple-choice objective type. All questions would be compulsory, and would carry equal marks. Of course, in some of the UPSC and other examinations, there are descriptive questions with different marks as well.

We should develop the right attitude for facing competitive examinations. In academic examinations we would be able to answer all the questions in full in the given time. But competitive examinations that try to eliminate a large number of candidates may be so designed that even the best candidate may not be able to answer all the questions in the specified time. The competition often assumes the form of a time-test than a knowledge test.

Multiple choice objective tests are in one way skill tests. A mediocre candidate who has drilled repeatedly with a similar test format would steal a march over a bright candidate who has not undergone the process. If the test uses the OMR type answer sheets (optical mark recognition for computerized valuation), test rehearsals may use such sheets, so that we develop familiarity with the style. Remember that in a time test of competitive nature, even a couple of seconds may turn the results one way or the other.

Not Enough Nurses

India needs 10.5 lakh nurses by the year 2012, but has only 3.7 lakh nurses at present. The shortage is acute.

instruments and their uses, units of measurement, human body, dates in history, pioneers, awards and prizes, scientific phenomena, great achievers in sport and games, abbreviations, national economy, planning, freedom struggle, and Indian constitution. A couple of good books on general knowledge can help us in gaining this knowledge.

Current affairs: Names of the current incumbents of various important offices, the names of Presidents and Prime Ministers of important countries, Chairpersons of various organisations, the chiefs of army / navy / air force in India, commissions and committees of public interest, industrial / agricultural production, general elections, major reforms, trends in national economy, etc. We should regularly read newspapers, and follow radio / television news bulletins.

A quick look at the right strategies

Gather previous question papers, analyse them, and find strategies that suit you.

Get appropriate textbooks, latest copies of reference books such as general knowledge titles and yearbooks, and copies of good newsmagazines & competition magazines.

Prepare a practical timetable, keeping in mind your strength and weakness in respect of the different subjects of the test. Work steadily.

Regularly read newspapers and make notes.

Adopt appropriate learning strategies. Follow the 4R style - Read, Recall, Reflect,

and Review. After reading for some time, have patience to check whether you have assimilated what you have read. Make useful mnemonics (like VIBGYOR).

Work out all numerical problems independently, without reading the steps in the textbook. Refer to them only if you get held up.

Solve independently all questions in reasoning.

Master the strategies for tackling objective questions with stress on speed. Conduct test rehearsals using previous test questions or similar questions. Learn from the errors you committed in the rehearsals and avoid them.

Decide how you would manage your time in the examination hall most effectively and follow your schedule.

Read the instructions in the question booklet and the answer sheet carefully, and follow them.

Do not waste your time by reading all the questions, since all questions are compulsory. Skip the tough ones in the first round.

Keep your self confidence at its peak. Victory is will.

Some of the popular competitive examinations

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION: The Union Public Service Commission conducts the Civil Services Examination annually for the selection of candidates to the nearly 20 services including the IFS, IAS, and IPS. It comprises two stages, the Preliminary and the Main (Written Part & Interview).

The Three D's for Robots

Robotics is the science and technology of robots, their design, manufacture, and application. Robots can be given the three D's - Dull, Dirty, Dangerous types of work.

The 120-minute test has 150 objective multiple-choice questions covering the areas of Verbal communications, Logical reasoning, Quantitative ability, and Data interpretation.

ATMA (AIMS Test for Management Admissions): The Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS), conducts ATMA for the selection of candidates to postgraduate management programmes in more than 120 institutions. (AIMS: Association of Indian Management Schools, Plot. 57, Sri Krishnadevarayanagar, Hyderabad 500 016; Web site : www.atma-aims.org)

ATMA contains 200 multiple choice questions spread over three sections - Analytical Skills, Quantitative Skills, and Verbal Skills. Each section is timed at 60 minutes. Four options would be given against each question. Total time for the test is three hours.

IIFT Test: The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade is the premier institution in the realm of foreign trade and international business. The institute conducts a test for selection of candidates to its MBA program. The test comprises 200 objective questions to be answered in 120 minutes. The scores of this test are used by other institutions as well.

IRMA Test: The Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat conducts its own test for the selection of candidates to its two programs, viz. two-year Postgraduate Program in Rural Management and one-year Fellow Program in Rural Management. The test comprises 200 objective questions.

TISS Test: The Tata Institute of Social

Sciences (Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088), a quality institution imparting training in Management disciplines, follows its own pattern for selection.

TISS Programs: Master of Health Administration, Master of Hospital Administration, M.A. in Social Work, and M.A. in Development Studies

SNAP (Symbiosis National Aptitude Test): The Symbiosis group of institutions at Pune conducts a common test called SNAP for selection of candidates to the postgraduate programs in their different institutes (Web site: www.snaptest.org).

Other Management Tests

Separate admission tests are being held by many other institutions such as Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi (Web site: www.fms.edu), NMIMS University, Mumbai (NMAT; Web site: www.nmims.edu), K J Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research, Mumbai (Somaiya Entrance Test - SET) and Pondicherry University.

All India Entrance Tests For Medical, Engineering, & Agricultural Programs

IIT JEE: A Joint Entrance Examination is held every year for the selection of candidates to the undergraduate programs in the seven IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) - Delhi, Kanpur, Varanasi, Bombay, Roorkee, the Institute of Technology in Banaras Hindu University, and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. There are two papers each having separate sections in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry. Each of the papers will have objective questions designed to test comprehension, reasoning, and analytical ability of the candidates.

SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test

The SAT examination is for those who wish to pursue a college course in the U.S. Some universities require SAT scores for admission.

PGP-PMP, IIM Bangalore PGP and PG-SEM, IIM Calcutta PGP-PGDM and PGP-PGDCM, IIM Indore PGP and Exec-PGP, IIM Kozhikode PGP, IIM Lucknow PGP and PGP-ABM

(ABM - Agri-Business Management; PGSEM - PGP in Software Enterprise Management; PGDCM - Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Aided Management; PMP - Public Management and Policy; PGDM - Post Graduate Diploma in Management)

Fellow Programme in Management (FPM) [equivalent to Ph.D.] in

IIM Ahmedabad / Bangalore / Calcutta / Indore / Lucknow.

However many other prominent business schools make use of CAT scores for the preliminary selection of candidates for admission.

The main areas tested are Quantitative Aptitude, Data Interpretation and Logical reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and Verbal Ability. The finer aspects of the content and style may change from year to year. The candidate should have wide general knowledge and fine language skills not only for the written test, but for effective performance in the group discussion and personal interview that follow.

MAT (Management Aptitude Test): AIMA (All India Management Association, Management House, 14, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003) conducts the popular MAT, usually four times a year. The scores of this test are used by nearly 300 business schools spread over all parts of the country, for

selection of candidates for admission.

It is a 150-minute test with 200 multiple-choice objective questions distributed evenly among five areas:

Language Comprehension

Mathematical Skills

Data Analysis & Sufficiency

Intelligence & Critical Reasoning

Indian and Global Environment.

XAT (XLRI Test): This is a selection test conducted under the auspices of the prestigious XLRI (Xavier Labour Relations Institute), Jamshedpur. The skills required for facing XAT are basically the same as those for cracking the CAT, but there may be an emphasis on measuring the power for judgment and abilities for making decisions. Certain other business schools also use the XAT scores for the preliminary selection.

JMET (Joint Management Entrance Test): This test is the first step in the process of selection to the 2-year full time Post-Graduate Degree Programs in Management offered by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and Indian Institutes of Technology - Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, and Roorkee.

There are opportunities for those with a bachelor's degree in engineering / technology / architecture / pharmacy / agriculture. Those with a master's degree in subjects such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, statistics, computer application, electronic science, environmental science, operations research, computational / information science, commerce, economics can also apply for admission to the test.

In-silico Biology

Bioinformatics represents the marriage of biotechnology and information technology. It deals with computational management of all kinds of biological information. It is also referred to as *in-silico* biology.

All India Veterinary Entrance Examination: The Veterinary Council of India conducts a common entrance examination at the national level for the selection of candidates for admission to 15% seats in B.V.Sc. & A.H. (Bachelor of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry) course in all public sector institutions in the country. The State of Jammu & Kashmir however does not come under the scheme. Job prospects are very bright for veterinary graduates.

Other entrance tests for medical admission: The following institutions conduct their own entrance examinations. Selection of candidates for admission is on the basis of national ranking. Some of them have entrance tests for postgraduate admission as well. Detailed information can be gathered from the respective institutions.

AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110 608, New Delhi

CMC (Christian Medical College), Vellore / Ludhiana.

JIPMER (Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research), Pondicherry

AFMC (Armed Forces Medical College), Wanowrie, Pune. A total of 130 students (105 boys & 25 girls) will be admitted. No fee has to be paid. There are benefits like free hostel accommodation, rations, book allowance, and uniform allowance. There is compulsory liability to serve as Commissioned Officers in the Armed Forces Medical Services.

Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras

Hindu University, Varanasi

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram, Wardha conducts an entrance test that comprises a descriptive paper on Gandhian thought, in addition to the usual objective paper in Biology, Physics, and Chemistry.

Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune: Entrance test for admission to the MBBS program in the Medical Colleges at Pune and Sangli.

CLAT (Common Law Admission Test): For the selection of candidates for admission to the B.A., LL.B. (Hons) program in different law universities in the country - Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Raipur, Gandhinagar, etc.

All the questions will be objective, with the following break up of marks.

1. English - 40 marks
2. General Knowledge - 50 marks
3. Mathematics - 20 marks
4. Legal Aptitude - 40 marks
5. Logical Reasoning - 50 marks.

Unlike in other tests for professional course admission, there will be no negative marking in CLAT.

Hotel Management Entrance Test: The National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida (Web site: www.nchmct.org) holds an entrance test for admission to the 3-year B.Sc. Hospitality & Hotel Administration program, offered jointly by the Council and the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Selection to more than thirty Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technology in different parts of the country is made based on the

India has the Best Two

According to a study on the world's best universities by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and IIT, Kharagpur are the only Indian universities to feature in the top 500.

offer quality technical education with opportunities in diverse disciplines such as Ceramic / Mining / Metallurgical / Ocean Engineering. Further there are five-year integrated programs in subjects such as Chemistry, Economics, Exploration Geophysics, and Applied Geology / Mathematics / Physics.

AIEEE (All India Engineering / Architecture Entrance Examination): This entrance test conducted by the CBSE forms the basis of selection of candidates for admission to a large number of institutions, including the 20 National Institutes of Technology, spread throughout the country. There are two papers in the test.

I - Three parts of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics of equal weightage, with objective type questions for BE / B.Tech courses

II - Mathematics (Objective), Aptitude Test (Objective), and Drawing. This paper is for B. Architecture and B. Planning. The Aptitude Test is designed to evaluate candidate's perception, imagination, observation, creativity, and architectural awareness.

BITSAT: Selection of candidates for admission to BITS Pilani / Goa / Hyderabad is through BITSAT - an online entrance test, held at selected centres. This test is of 3-hour duration (without break). It consists of four parts:

Part I - Physics

Part II - Chemistry

Part III - (a) English Proficiency and (b) Logical Reasoning

Part IV - Mathematics OR Biology

All India Pre Medical / Dental

Entrance Examination: Participation in this examination conducted by the CBSE gives the candidates access to 15% seats in MBBS / BDS programs in all public sector Medical / Dental Colleges in India. However, two States, Andhra Pradesh and J&K, are not in the scheme. Most students usually prepare well for the entrance tests in their respective States. Special preparation has to be made for appearing in this Examination, although the syllabi are more or less the same for all the medical entrance tests in the country.

All India Agricultural Entrance Examination: ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) holds an entrance examination every year at the national level for selection of candidates to 15% seats in all public sector institutions running bachelor's degree courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture, etc. The institutions include 39 State Agricultural Universities, Central Agricultural University (Imphal), and Central Universities having Agriculture faculty - namely Banaras Hindu University, Viswa Bharti and Nagaland University. All the seats in the degree course in dairy science in the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal are filled up based on the ranks in this test. Further, these ranks decide the selection of candidates for the National Talent Scholarship. NTS of Rs.1, 000 per month would be awarded to all those selected in this examination, who join any University in ICAR-SAU (State Agricultural University) system, located outside their State of domicile.

Major Job Creators

IT with about 5 m. jobs and retail sector with about 2.5 m. jobs in the next five years have the potential to be two major job creators in India, according to Nasscom. IT sector now employs 2 m. directly.

INDIA

Medical Physicist, an Emerging Profession

Medical physics is an applied branch of physics concerned with the application of physical energy (such as ionizing radiation), concepts and methods to the diagnosis and treatment of human disease.

When the life expectancy of Indian population exceeds 65 years, 25 % of all deaths will be due to cancer. Over 60 per cent of cancer patients may have to undergo some form of radiation therapy (treatment with ionizing radiation). This requires the coordinated efforts of medical physicists, radiation oncologists (specialist-physicians who treat cancer), and radiation technologists.

Medical physicists, in consultation with radiation oncologists, prepare treatment plans for using radiation sources internally and or externally to treat cancer. Medical physicist should ideally be qualified in diagnostic and therapeutic physics and physics of nuclear medicine. India needs at least a twofold increase in the number of medical physicists.

anks in this entrance test. The 3-hour test comprises 200 objective questions drawn from the areas of Numerical Ability & Scientific Aptitude, Reasoning & Logical Deduction, General Knowledge & Current Affairs, English Language, and Aptitude for Service Sector 'Plus two' with any optional subjects is adequate qualification for admission

All India Post Graduate Medical Entrance Examination: This examination conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, decides the selection of candidates for admission under open merit seats quota in various Postgraduate MD /MS / PG Diploma & MDS programs in Medical and Dental Colleges in the country run by the Union of India, State Governments (except Government of Andhra Pradesh and J&K) and Municipal or other local authorities.

JEST (Joint Entrance Screening Test): For enrolment in Ph D. / Integrated M.Sc.-Ph D. programs in Physics & Theoretical Computer Science in the following institutions.

Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Nainital

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai

Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad

Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai for DAE Graduate Fellowships Scheme

Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore

Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam

Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai

NEST (National Entrance Screening Test): For admission to 5-year Integrated M.Sc. programmes in mathematical, physical, chemical and biological sciences at NISER (National Institute of Science Education and Research), Bhubaneswar, and 5-year Integrated M.Sc. programs in Physics and Life Sciences at UM-DAE CBS (University of Mumbai - Department of Atomic Energy Centre of Excellence), Mumbai, after 10+2. Selected candidates will receive a monthly scholarship of Rs 3000 and an annual contingency grant.

JAM: Joint Admission Test to M.Sc in IITs in the following subjects.

Applied Geology / Geophysics / Mathematics / Stats & Informatics, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Geological Sciences, Geology, Geophysics, Industrial Maths & Informatics, Computer Applications, Mathematical Stats, Mathematics, Mathematics & Computing, and Physics

The Country

India is located between 8°4' and 37°6' north latitude and 68°7' and 97°25' east longitude. India measures 3214 km from north to south and 2933 km from east to west with a total land area of 3,287,263 sq. km. India is the 7th largest country in the world. It has a land frontier of 15,200 km and a coastline of 7516.5 km. Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea are parts of India. The country shares its political borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan on the west and Bangladesh and Burma on the east. The northern boundary is made up of China, Nepal and Bhutan. India is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

Physical Regions

The mainland, in geographical terms is broadly divided into a) the great mountains, b) the river the plains, c) the desert and d) the peninsula.

Mountain Ranges

The mountains extend for more than 2400 km. They are seven.

1. the Himalayas,
2. the Patkai and other ranges bordering India in the north and north east,
3. the Vindhya, which separate the Indo-Gangetic plain from the Deccan Plateau,
4. the Satpura
5. the Aravalli
6. the Sahyadri, which covers the eastern fringe of the West Coast plains and
7. the Eastern Ghats, irregularly scattered on the East Coast and forming the boundary of the East Coast plains.

Important Mountain Peaks:

Height in meter above Mean Sea

Level:

(1) K2*	8,611
(2) Kanchenjunga	8,598
(3) Nanga Parbat	8,126
(4) Gasher Brum*	8,068
(5) Broad Peak*	8,047
(6) Disteghil Sar*	7,885
(7) Masher Brum E	7,821
(8) Nanda Devi	7,813
(9) Masher Brum W*	7,806
(10) Rakaposhi*	7,788
(11) Kamet	7,756
(12) Saser Kangri	7,672
(13) Skyang Kangri*	7,541
(14) Sia Kangri*	7,421
(15) Chaukhamba (Badrinath Peak)	7,134
(16) Trisul West	7,131
(17) Nunkun	7,131
(18) Pauhunri	7,121
(19) Kangto	7,090
(20) Dunagiri	7,066

*in Pak-occupied territory

Watersheds

There are main three watersheds.

1. Himalayan range with its Karakoram branch in the north,
2. Vindhyan and Satpura ranges in Central India, and
3. Sahyadri or Western Ghats on the west coast.

Rivers and the Plains

The main rivers of the Himalayan group are the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. These rivers are both snow-fed and rain-fed and have therefore continuous flow throughout the year. Himalayan rivers discharge about 70% of their inflow

INDIA

States and Union Territories



Note: The boundaries of India are neither accurate nor true to scale.

into the sea. This includes about 5% from central Indian rivers. They join the Ganga and drain into the Bay of Bengal.

The plains of Ganga and Indus run for about 2400km with a width ranging from 240 to 320km. They are formed in the river basins of Ganga-Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Indus, Godavari, Kaveri, etc.

Desert

The desert region is located in the western and north western part of the country. It can be divided into two parts: the great desert and the little desert. The great desert extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward. The whole of Rajasthan-Sind Frontier runs through this. The little desert extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur up to northern wastes (dry and rocky land).

Peninsula

The Peninsula is marked by elevated landmass with height ranging from 460 to 1220m. The Deccan and the Southern part surrounded by water on three sides make the peninsula. It is flanked by Eastern Ghats on the east and Western Ghat on the west. Between the Ghats and the Sea lies the narrow coastal belt.

Climate

Traditionally, seasons in India are divided into six-Vasanta (Mar-Apr), Grishma (May-Jun), Varsha (Jul-Aug), Sharada (Sept-Oct), Hemanta (Nov-Dec) and Shishira (Jan-Feb). In broad terms, India experiences 3

main seasons, such as (a) Winter - Dec-March, (b) Summer - Apr to May and (c) Monsoon - South West Jun to Sept, and NE (retreating SW monsoon) - Oct to Nov. Between the two main seasons are Spring and Autumn.

India receives 86% of the rain during SW monsoon. NE monsoon is a very restricted one - experienced in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and sometimes AP and Karnataka.

Natural Vegetation

India has six types of forests. (a) Evergreen (Tropical Forests) - is found in areas with 200cm to 300cm rainfall; av. annual temp. 20°C to 27°C; av. annual humidity >80% (b) Deciduous (Monsoon Forests) - found in places with lesser rainfall between 150 to 200 cm; mean annual temp between 24°C and 28°C; humidity 75% (c) Dry Forest - are found where rainfall is scanty between 75 to 100 cm; mean annual temp 23°C to 29°C; humidity 50 to 60% (d) Hill Forests are common in South India and Himalayas (e) Tidal Forests (Mangrove) are found in the coastal submerged plains of Ganges (Sundarbans), Mahanadi, Godavari and Kerala and (f) Grasslands (hilly Himalaya and Deccan hills above 100m lowland- as in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar, NW Assam and riverine grasslands- found along rivers).

Available data place India in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, 47,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata.

Agriculture

India has two crop seasons. (a) Kharif: Rice, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maize, Cotton, Jute. Sowing - Jun/Jul, Harvest - Sep/Oct (b) Rabi: Wheat, Barley, Peas, Rapeseed, Mustard, Gram. Sowing - Oct/Dec, Harvest - Apr/May.

Length of some important rivers (in km):

(1) Indus	2,900
(2) Brahmaputra	2,900
(3) Ganga	2,510
(4) Godavari	1,450
(5) Narmada	1,290
(6) Krishna	1,290
(7) Mahanadi	890
(8) Kaveri	760

1565 Battle of Talikota-An alliance of Muslim rulers in Deccan defeats and destroys Vijayanagar Empire.

1568 Fall of Chittorgarh

1571 Foundation of Fatehpur Sikri by Akbar.

1576 Battle of Haldighati; Akbar defeats Rana Pratap Singh of Mewar.

1577 Akbar troops invade Khandesh completes his conquests in **1597**)

1582 Akbar proclaims Din Ilahi or Divine Faith-an attempt at synthesising Hinduism and Islam.

1595 The first fleet of the Dutch reached India

1597 Akbar completes his conquests. Death of Rana Pratap.

1600 English East India Company constituted through a charter, signed by Queen Elizabeth I.

1602 Dutch East India Company formed

1604 Compilation of "Adi Granth" the Holy Book of Sikhs.

1605 Death of Akbar and the accession of Jehangir; Dutch established their first factory in Masulipatanam

1606 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev.

1608 Captain Hawkins visit to Jahangir's court to secure trading rights for the British, failed.

1609 The Dutch open a factory at Pulicat.

1613 Sir Thomas Roe's visit yielded permission to set up their factory in Surat. Gradually trading centres were extended to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

1616 East India Company of Denmark reached Indian coasts

1619 Jahangir granted permission to the Dutch to trade in his territories

1620 Capture of Kangra Fort; Danish traders settled in Tranqubar in Tamil Nadu and Serampore in Bengal (1676)

1627 Death of Jehangir; Accession of Shah Jehan; Birth of Shivaji Bhonsle.

1628 Shah Jahan proclaimed Emperor

1631 Death of Shah Jehan's wife Mumtaz Mahal-The building of the Taj Mahal.

1636 Aurangzeb appointed Viceroy of Deccan

1639 Fort St. George built in Madras by the English.

1646 Shivaji captures Torna

1658 Aurangzeb becomes Emperor of Delhi.

1664 Shivaji assumes royal title; Compagnie des Indes Orientales (The French East India Co.) established trading centres near Madras and Chandernagore on Hooghly.

1666 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh; Death of Shah Jahan

1675 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

1684 East India Co. set up a primary press in Bombay.

1689 Execution of Sambhaji

1699 Guru Gobind Singh creates 'Khalsa'.

1707 Death of Aurangzeb.

1708 Guru Gobind Singh dies.

1720 Accession of Baji Rao Peshwa at Poona:

1738 Malwa ceded to Marathas

1739 Nadir Shah of Persia conquers Delhi; lose Kabul.

1742 Marathas invade Bengal; Duplex, French Governor of Pondicherry.

1746 The First Carnatic War (First An-

The Gandhi Cap

Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned for the first time in Johannesburg in December, 1907. As a coloured prisoner he had to wear a cap. This type of cap later became 'Gandhi Cap', a great symbol of Indian freedom fighters..

Manorama Yearbook 2009

1796 Marquess of Wellesley Governor General.

1799 Fourth Mysore War-The English defeat Tipu; Death of Tipu-Partition of Mysore; William Carey at Serampore.

1800 Fort Williams College at Calcutta started by Lord Wellesley; Death of Nana Fadnavis.

1801 The English annex the Carnatic and part of Oudh.

1802 Treaty of Bessein with Peshwa Baji Rao which helped in flushing out Holkar from Poona.

1803-5 Second Anglo-Maratha War. British under Sir Arthur Wellesley inflict a crushing defeat on the Marathas; Occupation of Delhi by Lord Lake.

1806 The Vellore Mutiny.

1809 First Treaty of Amritsar- between Ranjit Singh and East India Company regarding rights over Satluj area; The Second Treaty of Aamritsar helped English restrict Russian advance through Punjab by annexing Khyber valley and defeating Afghan ruler Dost Muhammad.

1813 Charter Act renewed for free-trade.

1815-30 Activities of Ram Mohan Roy and the Serampore missionaries alongside William Carey.

1816 Hindu College, Calcutta founded

1817-19 Mill's History of India published; Marathas finally crushed.

1818-19 Sikh conquest of Multan and Kashmir.

1823 The Licensing Regulations (Adams Regulation) directed against vernacular newspapers.

1828 Lord William Bentinck becomes Governor General; Suppression of Thugs

(1837).

1829 Brahmo Samaj founded; Era of social reforms-Prohibition of Sati.

1831 Rise of the Sikhs under Ranjit Singh.

1835 English, made the court language.

1837-38 Famine in North India.

1838 Tripartite Treaty.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh dies. First Afghan War begins.

1845-46 First Anglo-Sikh War: Sikh defeated and Treaty of Lahore signed resulting in reducing Sikh army's size below the British.

1848 Lord Dalhousie Governor General.

1848-49 Second Anglo-Sikh War-Sikh defeated (1848). The British annexed Punjab into British Empire.

1853 First Indian Railway - Bombay to Thane; Annexation of Nagpur, Renewal of the Charter Act; Telegraph, started from Calcutta to Agra.

1854 Rise of Jute industry.

1857 Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras set up; First War of Indian Independence (The Mutiny).

1858 British Crown takes over the Indian Government-Queen Victoria's Proclamation.

1859 Indigo disputes in Bengal.

1861 Indian Councils Act, Indian High Courts Act and Indian Penal Code passed. Famine in North-West India.

1865 Famine in Orissa.

1867 The (Newspaper) Registration Act

1868 Railway opened from Ambala to Delhi.

1875 Aligarh College founded by S

Heart Diseases in India

A WHO report suggests that 60% of world's cardiac patients will be Indians by 2010. The number of cardiac patients in India will be 100 million by 2020.

glo-French war) - The French and British companies clashed at Carnatic and the French capture Madras.

1748 First Anglo-French war ended with the treaty of Aix La Chappelle, in Europe.

1750 War of the Deccan; Death of NasirJang; 1750-04 Second Anglo-French War (unofficial).

1754- Mughal king Ahmad Shah deposed; Dupleix returns to France and General Godeheu signed the Treaty of Pondicherry with the British.

1756 Alivardi Khan, Nawab of Bengal dies; Siraj-ud-daulah succeeds after capturing Calcutta; Ahmad Shah Abdali in Delhi Jun. 20. Black-Hole Tragedy - where of the 146 English prisoners held by Mughals in a small chamber, 123 prisoners died of suffocation.

1757 Jun. 23. Battle of Plassey: The British defeat Siraj-ud-daulah through a conspiracy with Mir Jafar. Mir Jafar made Nawab of Bengal. (-60 Clive's first Governorship).

1758 (-63) Third Anglo-French War; Marathas occupy the Punjab.

1760 Battle of Wandiwash-The English defeat the French, where Sir Eyre Coote defeated Count Lally, sealing the fate of the French in India..

1761 Third Battle of Panipat; Ahmed Shah Abdali, the ruler of Afghanistan defeats the Marathas; Maratha imperialism checked; Hyder Ali usurps power in Mysore (rules till '82); Fall of Pondicherry.

1764 Oct. 23. Battle of Buxar- The English defeat Mir Kasim who instigated war with the help of Nawab Shuja-ud-daula of Awadh and Shah Alam II (Mughal).

1765 The English get Diwani Rights in

Bengal, Bihar and Orissa; Clive, Governor in Bengal for the second time.

1766 The English secure Northern Circars in the Carnatic.

1767-69 First Mysore war-the British suffered a humiliating peace with Hyder Ali of Mysore.

1769- The French East India Co dissolved.

1772 Warren Hastings appointed Governor of Bengal; Return of Shah Alam to Delhi.

1773 The Regulating Act passed by the British Parliament to curb the company trader's unrestrained commercial activities and better territorial control.

1774 Warren Hastings becomes the first Governor-General of India. Calcutta made the administrative headquarters of the Company.

1775-82 First Anglo-Maratha war: The Treaty of Salbai ended the war.

1780 Birth: Maharaja Ranjit Singh, James August Hickey started a weekly paper called Bengal Gazette (also called Calcutta General Advertiser).

1780-84 The Second Mysore War. The English defeat Hyder Ali. Tipu Sultan succeeds Hyder Ali.

1784 Pitt's India Act passed; Calcutta Gazette published; Foundation of Asiatic Society of Bengal with the help of William Jones.

1785 The Bengal Journal published.

1788 Bombay Herald published; Blind- ing of Shah Alam.

1790-92 Third Mysore War between the English and Tipu-Treaty of Seringapatam.

1791 Sanskrit College in Benaras opened by Jonathan Duncan.

India Tops Remitters' List

India topped the remittances league in 2007. The \$ 27 billion was up from \$25.7 b. in 2005.

British King and Queen, King George V and Queen Mary arrive in Bombay, holds Durbar in Delhi; Partition of Bengal annulled to create the Presidency of Bengal.

1912 Apr. 1. India's Imperial capital officially, shifted from Calcutta to Delhi; Apr. 18. The first Indian film by RG Torney, 'Pundalik,' released; Rabindranath Tagore publishes Gitanjali; Orissa and Bihar separates.

1913 May 3. 'Raja Harishchandra,' India's first feature film, made by Dadasaheb Phalke released; Nov. 6. Gandhiji arrested in Johannesburg; 25. Jailing of Gandhiji causes riots in Natal; Dec. 1. Nobel Prize (Literature) for the first Asian for 'Gitanjali' by Rabindranath Tagore.

1914 The First World War begins

1915 Jan. 9. Gandhiji returns to India from South Africa; Feb. 19. GK Gokhale dies; Mar 6. Gandhiji meets Rabindranath Tagore for the first time; Jun. 20. First Women's University established in Pune; Defence of India Act; Dec. Home Rule League - a movement started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

1916 Lucknow Pact signed between INC and Muslim League; Home Rule League similar to that of Tilak started by Annie Besant.

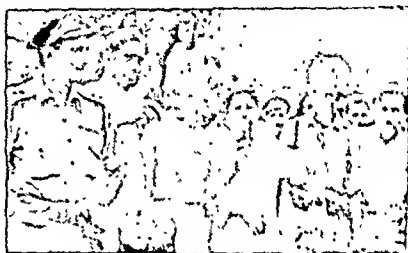
1917 Annie Besant becomes President of Indian National Congress; Kaira Satyagraha in Gujarat; Mar. The first feature film of Bengal was JF Madan's Satyavadi Raja Harishchandra; Apr. 10. Champaran Satyagraha in Bihar.

1918 World War ends.

1919 Mar. 1. Gandhiji introduces 'satyagraha'; Rowlatt Act intended to perpetuate the extraordinary powers

provokes country-wide protests; Apr. 13. The massacre at Jalianwala Bagh, Amritsar (Punjab) killed 500 and injured 1500 people by Gen. Reginald Dyer's soldiers; Ali brothers and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad start the Khilafat movement (for restoring the Turkish Khalifate) with Gandhiji's support. Montague-Chelmsford Reforms offer limited provincial autonomy to Indians; India becomes the member of the League of Nations.

1920 Aug. 1. 'Lokmanya' Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the revolutionary who said 'Swaraj is my birthright,' dies; Sept. 10. INC okays Gandhiji's nonviolent non-co-



Gandhiji with Refugees, Delhi, 1947

operation movement against the British government; Bonfire of British clothes to show popular dissatisfaction with the reforms.

1921 Jan. 9. The Duke of Connaught opens the new Indian Central Legislature in Delhi; Excavation under the supervision of Dayaram Sahani unfolds Harappa civilisation at the bank of river Ravi in the Punjab district of Pakistan; Moplah (Muslim) rebellion in Malabar; Nov. 17. Census started in India; Riots in Bombay as Gandhiji burns foreign cloths coinciding with the visit of the Prince of Wales - INC boycotts Prince's visit. Film-maker V. Shantaram made his first

India and China in the War on Poverty

Between 1990 and 2001, the proportion of people in poverty fell from 33 p.c. to 16 p.c. in China. In India, between 1993 and 1999, the proportion fell from 42 p.c. to 35 p.c.

Ahmad Khan; Arya Samaj founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

1876 The Queen becomes Empress of India; Famine in South India.

1877 Delhi Durbar-The Queen of England proclaimed Empress of India.

1878-80 Second Afghan War.

1879 Vernacular Press Act; Duties on Cotton abolished

1881 Factory Act-Rendition of Mysore-Mysore State restored to its original ruler.

1882 Punjab University set up.

1885 Indian National Congress founded - first meeting.

1886 Shri Ram Krishna Paramhansa dies; The Ram Krishna Mission begins.

1887 Allahabad University established.

1892 Indian Council Act to regulate Indian administration.

1893 Vivekananda at Parliament of Religions at Chicago.

1896-1900 Plague and Famine

1899 Lord Curzon becomes Governor General and Viceroy.

1900 The North-West Frontier Province created; Lumiere Brothers, on 7 July, just six months after cinema's invention in France, brought it into India.

1901 Feb. 12 The Viceroy, Lord Curzon creates the North-West Frontier province between Afghanistan and Punjab; India's love for films started in Mumbai on 1 Oct. with the screening of the silent film, Life of Christ.

1902 Jul. 4. Swami Vivekananda dies;

The first foreign film show - Aladin at the Wonderful Lamp.

1903 Jan. 1. A Durbar held in Delhi announce King Edward VII, Emperor India; 26. Gandhiji begins legal practice in South Africa.

1904 Indian Universities Act enacted in the viceroyalty of Lord Curzon; passed ancient monument protection Act and subsequently establishment of Archaeological Survey of India; Dec. 26. The first Delhi-Bombay car race takes place.

1905 First Partition of Bengal; Aug. INC declare boycott of British goods; a protest against the partition.

1906 Formation of the All India Muslim League; INC Calcutta Session for the first time uses 'Swaraj.' Servants of India Society founded by G.K. Gokhale.

1907 Jan. 22. Opposed to the new laws on race, Gandhiji begins the civil disobedience movement in South Africa; May 7. Electric tram starts service in Bombay; Oct. 4. Riots in Calcutta; Dec. 27. INC Surat Session ends with recriminations and violence; Tata Iron and Steel Company founded; First electric train started in Bombay.

1908 Jan. 30. MK Gandhi released from South African prison; Oct. 2. Khudiram Bose hanged; The Newspaper Press Act.

1909 Minto-Morley Reforms Bill or Indian Councils Act passed.

1910 The Indian Press Act passed; Feb. 23 Chinese Army occupies Lhasa, forces Dalai Lama to flee to India; Aug. 22. Mother Teresa born in Albania as Agnes Gaxha Bojaxhiu.

1911 Jun. 22. King George V declared Emperor of India; Dec. 2. The first ever



Ram Krishna
Paramhansa

Cars in India

Of the total population in India, 14.5 m. constitute cars and there are 80 m. two wheelers. In 2007, India sold 1.2 m. cars against 8 m. in China.

ombay's Majestic Cinema; Aug. 29. Gandhiji attends second Round Table Conference.

1932 Jan. 4. Gandhiji arrested and NC outlawed; Third Round Table Conference; Jun: 25. Indian cricketers begins their first Test Match at Lords against Douglas Jardine's team. 28. India lose their first Test Match; Sep. 24. Poona Pact signing - for extending the voting rights of untouchables; Oct. 15. Air India's Bombay-Karachi service inaugurated; India wins gold medal for hockey in Los Angeles Olympic.

1933 White Paper on Indian reforms.

1934 Nov. 19. The INC wins almost half the seats in elections to the Indian legislative assembly; Congress Socialist Party formed under the patronage of Acharya Narendra Dev; Civil Disobedience Movement called off; Bihar earthquake.

1935 Government of India Act passed. India and Burma separated. British India divided into 11 provinces Congress ministries formed in a majority of the provinces; Gandhiji publishes Wardha Scheme of Basic Education in 'The Harijan.'

1936 Death of King George V; Accession and abdication of Edward VIII. Accession of George VI; India wins Berlin Olympic hockey gold medal.

1937 Inauguration of Provincial Autonomy; The Indian constitution comes into being under Government of India Act

1938 Resignation of Congress Ministries. Political deadlock in India.

1939 Beginning of World War-II. Political deadlock in India as Congress ministries resign; Subash Chandra Bose

starts Forward Block.

1941 Subash Chandra Bose escapes from India.

1942 Mar 22. Cripps Mission arrives in India to find out a formula for Indian independence; Both Congress and Muslim League refuse Sir Stafford Cripps offer. Aug. 8. Congress adopts Quit India Resolution. Gandhiji gives call for 'Do or Die'; Aug. 9. 'August Kranti' movement mass social upheaval as senior Congress leaders arrested and Congress declared an illegal body; Sept. 1. Subhas Chandra



Subhas Chandra Bose with his wife, Kasturba

Bose (Nehru) forms the 'Forward Block' Army in Madras and the 'Indian National Army' in Malaya. He resigns the Government of Free India in Singapore.

1943 Subhas Chandra Bose returns to India from Singapore.

1944 Subhas Chandra Bose is elected President of the Indian National Congress.

1945 The Indian National Congress is divided into two factions, the 'Left' and the 'Right'. The 'Left' faction is led by Subhas Chandra Bose and the 'Right' faction is led by Mahatma Gandhi.

1946 The Indian National Congress is re-united.

The Gateway of India

King George V and Queen Mary landed in Bombay on 20th Dec 1911 and were met by a British King and Queen. The Gateway of India was built to mark the occasion.

screen appearance in a film titled Surekha Haran; Dec. 23. Vishwa Bharati University established .

1922 Dr. RD Banerjee and his team excavates Mohenjodaro (in Sindhi means the mound of death); Civil Disobedience Movement; Congress makes Gandhiji sole leader of Bardoli satyagraha; Outburst of violence at Chauri Chaura led to suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement by INC; Mar 10. Gandhiji arrested for the first time in India; 18. Gandhiji, on charges of sedition, sentenced to 6-years 'simple imprisonment.' In South India, the film industry took off with the screening of the first film Bhisma Pratigya.

1923 Swarajya Party started by C.R.Das and Motilal Nehru; Swarajists propose to enter the councils and wreck the government from within. Khilafat movement fizzles out as Kemal Pasha declares Turkey a secular state. Apr. 8. Plague in India; 'Indian Party,' started by Madan Mohan Malviya. Sep. 18. The INC agrees to launch the civil disobedience campaign; Gandhiji starts his 21 day fast in despair at Hindu-Muslim riots.

1924 Feb. 24 Gandhiji released from prison; 25000 die due to plague; Sept. 18 Gandhiji starts 21 day hunger strike; Director and actor Homi Master's thriller film Kala Naag, shifted the focus from mythological films to modern themes.

1925 Death of C.R.Das; Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) started by Hedgewar.

1926 May 2. Women allowed to stand for election to public office in India.

1927 Indian Navy Act; Simon Commission appointed; Jan. 8. The first scheduled London-Delhi flight arrives;

Muslim League splits.

1928 Feb. 3. Simon Commission comes to India - boycott by all parties; 28. Scientist CV Raman discovers the 'Raman Effect'; All Parties' Conference - muslim leaders leave the Conference; Aug. 15. Motilal Nehru report demands constitutional framework of a free India; Dec. 17. Lala Lajpat Rai dies; 20. India wins gold medal in hockey in Amsterdam Olympics.

1929 Feb. 10. JRD Tata becomes the first Indian to get a pilot's license; Aug. 21. Gandhiji elected President of INC; Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, promises Dominion Status for India; Nov. 5 The longest electric railway opens from Bombay to Poona for 116 miles; On the midnight of Dec. 31, At Lahore session Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as President of the Congress, demands Swaraj and hoists the National Flag.

1930 Jan. 1. Gandhiji begins Civil Disobedience Movement; 26. Observed as Independence Day all over India; Mar. 4-5. Gandhi-Irwin Pact signed. Gandhiji agrees to discontinue civil disobedience if Lord Irwin released political prisoners who had not been guilty of violence; Apr. 6. Gandhiji marches to Dandi (satyagraha) to defy salt-tax; Repression loose by the government; Nov. 12. First Round Table Conference in London; Jan. 23. Simon Commission recommends federal India and separation from Burma; Dec. 10. Nobel Prize in Physics (Raman effect) awarded to Sir C. V. Raman.

1931 Gandhi-Irwin Pact; Second Round Table Conference; The Indian Press Emergency Powers Act; Mar 1 Ardeshir Irani's Alam Ara projected

Minor Languages

India is home to nearly 100 languages, spoken by at least 10,000 people each. About 450 languages in India are spoken by less than 10,000 people each.

services; Jun. 8. Air India's first international flight, 'Malabar Prince,' takes off from Bombay to London; 21. C. Rajagopalachari becomes the first and only Governor General of India; 2. Britain's king relinquishes his title 'Emperor of India.' July UN. Truce Line in Kashmir agreed; Sept. 17. Rebellion crushed in Kingdom of Hyderabad; Nov. 23. The National Cadet Corps is first organised for the student community; wins London Olympic hockey gold. Indian Atomic Commission created.

1949 Jan. 1. India and Pakistan agree truce in war over Kashmir; Apr. 27. Republic of India created; Nov. 26. Constitution of India adopted by the Constituent Assembly; Jan Sangh founded.

1950 Jan. 26. India becomes a Sovereign Democratic Republic as Constitution of India comes into force with universal adult franchise; Dr. Rajendra Prasad becomes the first President of India; Feb. 28. National Planning Commission formed; Mar. 1. Population figures announced; Apr. 8. Nehru and Ali Khan sign the Indo-Pakistan Pact which relieved mounting pressure; Oct. 7. Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa in Calcutta; Dec. 15. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel dies.

1951 Feb. 28. Kashmir issue taken-up in UN Security Council; Mar 4-11. First Asian Games in New Delhi; Jul. 9. First 5-year Plan (1951-56) announced. Most of its funds spent on rebuilding war-shattered railroads, irrigation schemes and canals.

1952 Jan. 24. India's first International Film festival opens in Bombay; The first National General Election in India (Oct. 1951 - Feb. '52); Dr. Rajendra Prasad

elected Rashtrapati (Head of State); India wins Helsinki Olympic hockey gold. Panchayati Raj - pilot scheme commenced.



5/20/2000

1953 Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary climb Mt. Everest; Excavation under the supervision of A. Ghosh and B. Lal at Kalibangan (meaning black bangles) one of the Harappan settlements on the bank of Ghaggar river in Haryana near Rajasthan.

1954 Panch Sheel agreement between China and India; Jul. 2, World's longest canal Bhakra-Nanga opened in India. This multi-purpose project is one of the largest irrigation systems in the world in Asia; 21. Agreement to bring peace to Indo-China.

1955 Jan. India: Government
(Office) Ad. Com. No. 102 -
The office of the Secretary of the Government
for India, P.W. came on business and
session of the main committee. The
adopts a resolution to the effect that
India: India: Ministry of the Interior

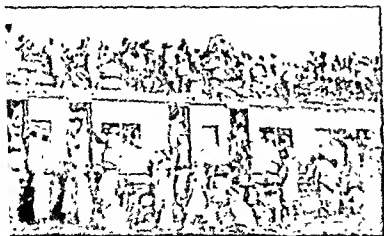
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A Revolution

The first Indian revolutionary
was hanged in the

above; Demonstrations against the trial of the INA men; Feb. 18. 1100 naval ratings of signal school of HMIS Talwar in Bombay went on strike against racial discrimination; 20. Lord Mountbatten becomes the last Viceroy of India replacing Wavell, even as Britain prepares to transfer its power over India; Aug. 15. India and Pakistan gain Dominion Status and a wave of violence and killing triggered by Partition of Punjab and Bengal; 9. Cabinet Mission comprising three ministers of the British cabinet-Lord Patrick Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and A. A. Alexander, arrives in India; Cabinet Mission announces its plan for an interim government and a constituent assembly.- Congress accepts it. The interim government is formed by inducting only Congress nominees. The Muslim League takes umbrage and starts direct action. Viceroy persuades the Muslim League to come in; Dec. 9. Constituent Assembly's first meeting; But the League declines to join the Constituent Assembly unless the demand for a separate state-Pakistan, is conceded.

1947 - Jan. 6. All India Congress Committee accepts partition of India by a majority vote of 99 in favour and 32 against the resolution; Jan. 18. The



Refugees fleeing

great popular singer Kundan Lal Saigal dies in Jalandhar; Feb. 20. The British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announces in the House of Commons about the British intention to transfer power into reasonable Indian hands by a date not later than June 1948; May 29 The Indian Standards Institution is established; June 2. Lord Mountbatten declares the British decision on partition on June 3 (known as June 3rd Plan); Indian leaders accept decision of Lord Mountbatten on partition; Aug. 14. India is divided and Pakistan is created with full independence; The assets of the world's largest empire which had been integrated in countless ways for more than a century divided. As soon as the new borders were made known, about 1 crore Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs fled from their homes on one side of the newly demarcated borders to what they believed to be their 'shelter.' About 10 lakh people were slaughtered in communal massacres; Aug. 15. India's declared independent of British rule with New Delhi as capital; Jawaharlal Nehru is sworn in as the first Prime Minister by Lord Mountbatten (the last Governor General of India); All the 562 states except Kashmir, Hyderabad and Junagarh incorporated in to the new federal union; Aug.-Sept. Punjab massacres; 27. Press Trust of India founded; Oct. 22. Invasion of Kashmir by Pakistani tribesmen with the abetment of Pakistan Government; Accession of Kashmir to India.

1948 Jan. 30. Gandhiji is assassinated in Birla House prayer meeting in New Delhi through revolver shots by Nathuram Vinayak Godse; Mar 8. Air India International is established for overseas

The Blind India

It is estimated that there are 37 m. blind people across the globe. Of these, over 15 m. are from India.

ivy purses abolished; Nov. 21. Dr. C.V. Raman dies.

1971 Feb. 8. Indira Gandhi becomes PM; Mar 27. PM Indira Gandhi expresses full support to the Bangladeshi struggle for freedom; Dec. 3. Pakistan attacks Indian airfields in the west; Indian army joins hands with 'Mukhti Bahini' of Bangladesh to form 'Mitro Bahini' (Allied Forces) and overturns East Pakistan by taking 93,000 POWs in a quick campaign; Dec. 16. War ends when Pakistani army in Bangladesh surrenders to the Indian Commander, Lt. Gen. Aurora; 18. PM Indira Gandhi receives Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award.

1972 Apr. 21. Pakistan leaves Commonwealth; Jul. 2. Shimla Agreement (on Kashmir), signed between India and Pakistan by Indira Gandhi and ZA Bhutto; Dec. 25. C. Rajagopalachari, the only Indian Governor General, dies.

1973 India's first Field Marshal named—Manekshaw.

1974 May 18. India's first atomic device, code-named 'Smiling Buddha,' exploded at Pokhran in Rajasthan; Aug. 20. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed elected President; BD. Jatti Vice-President.

1975 Jan. 1. Bombay High - oil located; Apr. 17. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former President, dies; 19. Indian satellite Aryabhata' launched; Jun. 12. Indira Gandhi's election set aside; 25-National emergency declared and censorship introduced.

1976 Mar 23. Indo-Sri Lanka boundary pact signed; Jun. 11. Indo-Soviet Moscow Declaration of Friendship and Co-operation signed by Indira Gandhi and President Brezhnev;

1977 Jan. 18. The President dissolves Lok Sabha; Feb. 1. President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed dies; March 16—20. Sixth General Election; 21 Emergency officially withdrawn; 22. Janata and its allies gain absolute majority in Lok Sabha; Indira Gandhi resigns; 24. Morarji Desai, a non-Congress leader becomes PM; Jul. 21. Sanjiva Reddi elected (unopposed) President of India; Sept. 15. Doordarshan established.

1978 Jan. 1. Air India's first Jumbo Jet, Emperor Ashoka, falls into the Arabian Sea killing 213 passengers and crew; Nov. Indira Gandhi reelected to the Lok Sabha as a member of the newly formed Congress (I) party; Dec. 19. The Lok Sabha expels Indira Gandhi, from the House and sentences her to imprisonment for a term lasting until its prorogation.

1979 Jul. 15. Morarji Desai resigns in order to avoid facing a no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha; 17. Chara Singh is PM heading Janata (S)-Congress coalition; Oct. 8. Jayaprakash Narayan dies; 17. Mother Teresa wins Nobel Peace Prize.

1980 Jan. 14. Mrs. Gandhi's new Ministry at Centre, sworn in; 30. Mother Teresa awarded Bharat



Mother Teresa

Ratna; India wins Moscow Olympic hockey gold.

1981 Jun. 24. APPLE, India's satellite launched; Sept. 29. Khalistan activist hijack Indian Airlines Boeing 737 to Lahore, Pakistan; Oct. 1. Activists of the Dakhals who masterminded the hijacking

Tashkent Peace and a Tragedy

Tashkent peace talk between India and Pakistan began on January 4, 1966. Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's Prime Minister, suddenly expired at Tashkent on January

first Indian to cross English Channel.

1959 Swatantra Party formed. Dalai Lama exiled, enters India; Dec. 19. United News of India (UNI) incorporated under Companies Act-1956.

1960 Bombay bifurcated into Maharashtra and Gujarat states. The Indus Water Treaty. Union of Kashmir with India.

1961 Mar 4. India's first aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, commissioned; Dec. 18. India occupies the Portuguese enclaves of Goa, Daman and Diu. Portuguese-India ceded by constitutional amendment, into the Indian Union in 1962.

1962 Third general election in India; Sept. 19. Sino-Indian War - China attacks India on the northern border and advances virtually unopposed toward the plains of Assam; Oct. 10. Fighting between People's Liberation Army of China and Indian Army; Nov. 12. Winter halts Chinese advance into India. 20. Ceasefire declared.

1963 Feb. 28. Rajendra Prasad dies.

1964 Feb. National Film Archive of India established; May 27. Jawaharlal Nehru, PM and architect of modern



Jawaharlal Nehru

India, dies; Lal Bahadur Shastri becomes India's second PM; Communist Party of

India splits; India wins Tokyo Olympic hockey gold.

1965 Apr. 9. Indo-Pakistan war in the Rann of Kutch; 20. First Indian team led by MS Kohli ascends the Everest; Aug. 15. Indian forces cross the ceasefire line and launched attack on Pak. administered Kashmir; Sept. 6. India crosses International Border on the western front marking official beginning of the war. 22. UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling unconditional cease-fire from both nations; Sept. 1. Pakistan attacks India in Akhnoor sector of Kashmir.

1966 Tashkent Agreement reached Jan. 11. Lal Bahadur Shastri dies at Tashkent, USSR, during the South Asia Peace Conference after inking the Agreement (meant to restore normalcy and peace between India and Pakistan); Jan. 19. Indira Gandhi elected leader of the Congress Party to succeed the late PM L.B. Shastri. Oct. 30. Mihir Sen crosses Panama Canal. Nov. 1. Dr. Homi Bhabha dies in a plane accident; The states of Haryana and Punjab come into existence.

1967 Fourth general election. Dr. Zakir Hussain elected President.

1968 May 29. Dara Singh becomes world wrestling champion; Oct. 16 Dr. Hargovind Khurana shares the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology.

1969 May 3. Zakir Hussain dies; Jul. 19. 14 leading banks nationalised with a view to diversify and enlarge the scope of banking operations; Aug. 20. V.V. Giri elected President. Congress splits - Indira Gandhi forms her own Congress.

1970 Apr. 2. Former Indian ruler

Founding of ISKCON

Srila Prabhupada founded International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in New York for the spread of 'Sanatan Dharma'. He returned to India in 1970 with some disciples. He passed away on November 14, 1977 in Brindavan.

nge missile, test-fired; Nov. 10. Founda-
on stone laid for the Ram Janambhoomi
mple at Ayodhya; Dec. 2. VP Singh, JD
ader, sworn in as India's seventh PM.

1990 Jan. 22. FIR registered in Bofors
backbacks case; Aug. 7. GOI accepts
Mandal Commission recommenda-
ons; 14. AKASH, the first surface-to-air
medium range missile, test-fired; Sept.
15. LK Advani starts his rathayatra; Nov.
7. VP Singh tenders resignation; 10. S.
Chandrasekhar sworn in as PM.

1991 Jan. 17. About 1.25 lakh Indian
expatriates from Kuwait begin to return
to India as a result of Gulf War (against
Iraq); Mar. 6. Chandrasekhar resigns as
PM; May 21. Former Prime Minister Rajiv
Gandhi killed by a suicide bomber in
Sriperumbudur; Jun. 21. A 54-member
Narasimha Rao ministry sworn in; Dec.
15. Satyajit Ray awarded Special Oscar.

1992 Jan. 29. India and Israel to es-
tablish full diplomatic relations; Oscar
for lifetime achievement awarded to Sa-
tyajit Ray; Apr. 28. Sensex fell 570 points
(12.77%); May 5. 'Prithvi' launched; Jul.
10. INSAT 2A shot into space; 25. Dr.
Shankar Dayal Sharma sworn in as ninth
President of India; Nov. 27. 19 year old
Sachin Tendulkar scores one thousand
test runs; Dec. 6. The domes of Babri
Masjid Ayodhya demolished by fanatics.

1993 Feb. 12. Kapil Dev crosses 40
wickets and 5000 runs in test cricket;
26. Allan Border beats Gavaskar's record
of the highest test runs of 10,122; Sep.
30. Quake kills thousands in Latur around
Osmanabad.

1994 May 21 Sushmita Sen is Miss
Universe. Nov. 19. Aishwarya Rai selected
Miss World.

1995 Apr. 10 Morarji Desai dies.

1996 May 16. A.B. Vajpayee is PM, until
May 28; June 1. H.D. Deve Gowda's 21-
member Central cabinet sworn in.

1997 Jan. 31. INS Vikrant decom-
missioned from Indian Navy, April 21.
1K. Gujral sworn in PM; July 25. K.R.
Narayanan sworn in President of India;
Sept. 5. Mother Teresa, 87, dies. Oct. 14.
Arundhati Roy wins Booker Prize; Nov. 28.
1K Gujral resigns as PM.

1998 March 14. Sonia Gandhi takes
over as Cong. (I) president; 19. A.B.
Vajpayee takes over as PM; May 11. India
conducts Operation Shakti, code-name for
Pokhran-II nuclear tests, by detonating
fission devices; Oct. 14. Amartya Sen win
the Nobel Prize for Economics; Nov. 19
National Security Council to give polic
direction and safeguard India's security
Arundhati Roy wins the Booker Prize for
'The God of Small
Things.'

1999 Feb. 20. PM
Vajpayee arrives in
Pakistan by Deihi-
Lahore bus; Lahore
Declaration signed
to provide a peaceful
and bilateral solution
to the Kashmir issue;

May 26. Oceansat-1 (IRS-P4) launched b
PSLV-C2; June-July: Intense fighting in Ka
gil due to infiltration of Pak-soldiers(calle
Operation Badr) inside Line of Contr
(the de facto border between the two na
tions); July 26. India declares its territory
completely free of Pak. intruders; Sept. 1
Lok Sabha election begins; Oct. 10. 13th
Lok Sabha constituted; 13. Vajpayee Gov
sworn-in; 19. Devastating cyclone hit



A.B. Vajpayee

First Telecast in Colour

India's first telecast in colour, during a regular transmission, was on April 25, 1982 when Satyajit Ray's feature films 'Sadgati' and 'Satranj Ke Khilari' were shown in New Delhi.

Indian Airlines plane arrested.

1982 Jan. 14. Indian team of 21 men-
s land on Antarctica; Apr. 10. INSAT
launched from Cape Canaveral, USA;

25. Zail Singh sworn in President;
v. 15 Acharya Vinoba Bhave dies; 30.
World Premier of Richard Attenborough's
n, Gandhi, in New Delhi.

1983 Mar 3. Seventh Non-Aligned
ovement's summit in New Delhi; Apr.
Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi"
ns 8 Oscars; Oct. 19. Prof. Subraman-
m Chandrashekar of India shares
bel Prize for Physics with Prof. William
owler, USA; Nov. 23. Commonwealth
mmit in New Delhi; Bhanu Athaiya
the first Indian to win an Oscar for
stume design (Gandhi) shared with
nn Melo.

1984 Operation Meghdoot seized
reater portion of Siachen Glacier from
k. occupation; Apr. 4 Rakesh Sharma
comes India's first spaceman; May
3. Miss Bachendri Pal becomes the first
dian woman and 4th in the world to
nquer Mount Everest; Jun. 5. Operation
ue Star; Oct. 31. Indira Gandhi assas-
nated by her bodyguards; Rajiv Gandhi
vom in PM; Dec. 3. In Bhopal, 2,500
ersons die in Union Carbide gas leak
agedy; PT Usha becomes the first Indian
oman to appear in an Olympic final;
AIL India established.

1985 Jan. 10. Ravi Shastri scores 6
xes of Tilak Raja in Bombay; Feb. 1.
zharuddin hits a century in each of his
rst three tests; Jun. 23. Air India 747,
anishka, crashes off the coast of Ireland
lling 329 people on board; Sept. Indira
andhi National Open University (IG-
OU) established, in order to promote

distance education system and open
universities.

1986 Feb. 1. Pope John Paul II arrives
in New Delhi; Mar 16. Notorious criminal,
Charles Shobraj, escapes Tihar Jail with
six criminals after drugging the guards;
May 6. The Muslim (divorce protection)
Bill passed, entitling a divorced woman
a reasonable provision; Jul. 15. India's
Sandhya Agarwal sets world record by
scoring 190 runs in the third test Match
against England; Aug. 7. The first wholly
Indian test-tube baby born at the REM
hospital, Bombay; Gen. AS Vaidya, the
chief of Army Staff during Operation Blue
Star, shot dead; Nov. 17. SAARC SUMMIT
in Bangalore.

1987 March 7. Sunil Gavaskar becomes
the first batsman to make 10,000 runs;



Prithvi

May 12. INS Virat (origi-
nally Harmiz) commis-
sioned in Indian Navy,
30. Goa becomes the
25th state of India; Sept.
3. Viswanathan Anand,
17, becomes India's first
Grand Master and the
World's youngest.

1988 Feb. 25. Prithvi,
the first tactical surface-
to-surface short range
ballistic missile, test-
fired; Mar. 17. IRS-IA, In-
dia's first remote-sensing
satellite, launched; Oct. 23. The Power
Grid Corporation of India established.

1989 Jan. 19. Indian national flag
hoisted in South Pole; May 22. Agni,
the first surface-to-surface intermediate
range ballistic missile, test-fired; Jun. 5.
TRISHUL, the first surface-to-air short

Civil Honours Reintroduced

Personal civil honours like Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan etc. which were with-
drawn by the Government of India in 1977 were reintroduced on January 25, 1980
after Indira Gandhi again became the Prime Minister of India.

The People of India

Indian population is said to be the melting pot of various races. Few, if any, can claim to belong to any particular stock.

Races (as per classical pattern): According to Dr. B. S. Guha, the population of India is derived from 6 main ethnic groups: 1. Negrito; 2. Proto-Australoids or Austriacs; 3. Mongoloids; 4. Mediterranean or Dravidian; 5. Western Brachycephals and; 6. Nordic Aryans.

The Major Tribes who inhabit in India are Abors-Arunachal Pradesh, Assam; Adi, Apatami-Arunachal Pradesh; Angami, Ao-Nagaland; Badagas-Tamil Nadu; Baiga-MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat; Bhils-MP, Gujarat, Rajasthan; Bhotias-UP (Garhwal and Kumaon); Bhutias-Sikkim; Birhor-Bihar; Bodos-Assam; Chenchus-AP, Orissa; Chutia-Assam; Dangs-Gujarat; Gaddis-HP; Garos-Meghalaya; Gonds-MP, Bihar, Orissa, AP; Great Andamanese-Andaman Is.; Irulas-Tamil Nadu; Jaintias-Meghalaya; Jarawas-Little Andamans; Kanis-Kerala; Kacharis, Karbi-Assam; Khampti-Arunachal Pradesh; Khasis-Meghalaya, Assam; Khonds-Orissa; Kol-MP; Kotas-Tamil Nadu; Kuki-Manipur; Lepchas or Rongpa-Sikkim; Lushais-

Tripura; Meiteis-Manipur, Nagaland; Mina-Rajasthan; Miri-Arunachal Pradesh; Mishing-Assam; Murias-MP; Mikirs-Assam; Mundas-Bihar; Oarons-Bihar, Orissa; Onges-Little Andamans; Rabhas-Assam; Rengma-Nagaland; Santhals-W. Bengal, Bihar; Sema-Nagaland; Sentinelesse-Andaman & Nicobar Is.; Shompens-Great Nicobar Is.; Tagin-Arunachal Pradesh; Todas-Tamil Nadu; Uralis-Kerala; Zeliang-Nagaland.

Scheduled Castes & Tribes There are 13.82 crores people belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the country. This constitutes 16.48% of the country's total population. The States of UP, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh account for more than 50% of the SC population, with UP and West Bengal having more than 20% of its population from the SCs. Members of the SC earn their livelihood through their own labour, either on land belonging to others or in occupations like scavenging, flaying and tanning of leather. More than 3 quarters of the SC workers are engaged in primary occupation and the proportion of those engaged in the tertiary sector is nearly

Religions of India

Religious group	1971		1981		1991		2001	
	Number (m.)	Per cent	Number (m.)	Per cent	Number (m.)	Per cent	Number (m.)	Per cent
Hindus	453.4	82.7	549.7	82.6	672.6	82.41	827.5	80.44
Muslims	61.4	11.2	75.6	11.4	95.2	11.67	132.2	13.42
Christians	14.3	2.6	16.2	2.4	18.9	2.32	24.1	2.33
Sikhs	10.4	1.9	13.1	2.0	16.3	1.99	19.2	1.84
Buddhists	3.9	0.7	4.7	0.7	6.3	0.77	7.5	0.72
Jains	2.6	0.5	3.2	0.5	3.4	0.41	4.2	0.40
Others	2.2	0.4	2.8	0.4	3.5	0.43	7.3	0.71
Total	548.2	100.0	665.3	100.0	816.2	100.0	1022.4	100.0

Orissa and A.P.

2000 Mar 19. US President Clinton visits India; Jul. 31. Matinee idol Rajkumar abducted by Veerappan; Sep. 14. Bill Gates in Delhi; 19. Karnam Malleswari wins a bronze at Sydney Olympics; Oct. 30. Azharuddin and four others named by CBI in cricket match fixing; Nov. 1. Chhattisgarh, the 26th state is born; 15. Jharkhand, the 28th State is born; Matinee idol Rajkumar released by bandit Veerappan; Dec. 24. Viswanathan Anand becomes world chess champion.

2001 Jan. 21. India and Bangladesh starts train service after 21 years; Feb. 9. 14th Census of India begins; Mar 1. India clocked 1,027,015,247 people, to become the world's second most populous nation after China; Apr. 4. Bismillah Khan awarded Bharat Ratna; 18. GSAT-1 launched by GSLV-D1 from Sriharikota; May 27. Koodiyattam receives UNESCO approval; Jul. 15-16 The Agra Summit between Pak. President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee; Oct. 22. PSLV-C3 successfully launched.

2002 Jan. 15. Cabinet allows every Indian citizen to hoist the flag anytime; Feb. 7. INSAT-3C put in geosynchronous orbit; Mar 26. POTO Bill passed; Apr. 20. Sachin Tendulkar equals Sir Donald Bradman's record of 29 centuries; Jul. 25.

APJ Abdul Kalam becomes 12th President; Aug. 19. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat sworn in as 12th Vice-President; Sept. 12. MET-

SAT (KALPANA-1) put in orbit.

2003 Feb. 12. 'BrahMos,' super sonic anti-ship cruise missile test-fired off the Orissa coast; May 4. Indian Light Combat Aircraft rechristened 'Tejas'; Aug. 1. LCA makes maiden flight.

2004 May 20. Manmohan Singh appointed Prime Minister by the President of India; Aug. 17. Major RS Rathore wins Olympic silver medal for Double Trap firing; Sept. 20. EDUSAT launched; Dec. 23. Former PM Narasimha Rao dies.

2005 Feb. 12. Sania Mirza becomes the first ever India woman to win a WTA event; Aug. 2. National Knowledge Commission launched; 8. Nanavati Commission report tabled in the Parliament; Sep. 2 India and EU agree to partner in Galileo project; Oct. 12. The Right to Information Act comes into effect except in J&K; Nov. 9. Former President KR Narayanan dies.

2006 Jan. 7. The first Overseas Citizen of India Card presented to Nivruti Rai; Jul. 31. Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill passed; Aug. 10. Vinda Karandikar, Marathi writer, conferred 39th Jnanpith Award; Sept. 9. Kanshi Ram, BSP founder, dies; Shabana Azmi receives Gandhi International Peace Prize; Nov. 20. President of China Hu Jintao visits India; Dec. 15. Prevention of Child Marriage Bill-2004, passed in Rajya Sabha.

2007 Apr. 12. 14th SAARC Summit at New Delhi; Agni-III, successfully test fired; 18. 'Saras,' prototype of India's first commercial civilian aircraft made its maiden flight; Jet Airways acquires Air Sahara; Jun. 5. Kamallesh Sharma selected Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

Linguistic States

In 1956, Indian states were reorganised on linguistic basis. India's biggest state Madhya Pradesh was created on Nov. 1. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands with a cluster of 314 islands were constituted into a Union Territory.

Population

Populationwise, India is second in the world. On May 11, 2000 India's population reached the one billion mark. The population increased to 1,027 million in March, 2001 (531.3 m. males and 495.7 m. females). India accounts for a meagre 2.4% of the world surface area of 135.79 million sq. km. but it supports 16.7% of the world population. It is estimated that at the present rate of growth (1.93% during 1991-2001) India will overtake China by 2050. Look at the growth of population from 1901 to 2001.

Rural and Urban Population 1901-2001

Census Year	Population(m.)		Percentage of (m.) total population	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1901	213	26	89.2	10.8
1911	226	26	89.7	10.3
1921	223	28	88.8	11.2
1931	246	33	88.0	12.0
1941	275	44	86.1	13.9
1951	299	62	82.7	17.3
1961	360	79	82.0	18.0
1971	439	109	80.1	19.9
1981	524	159	76.7	23.3
1991	629	218	74.3	25.7
2001	741.7	285.4	72.22	27.78

Cities/Urban Agglomerations with over a million people

** Urban Agglomerations		
/City	Population	
01 Greater Mumbai	16,368,084	
02 Kolkata	13,216,546	
03 Delhi	12,791,458	
04 Chennai	6,424,624	
05 Bangalore	5,686,844	

06 Hyderabad	5,533,640
07 Ahmedabad	4,519,270
08 Pune	3,755,520
09 Surat	2,811,460
10 Kanpur	2,690,480
11 Jaipur*	2,324,310
12 Lucknow	2,266,930
13 Nagpur	2,122,960
14 Patna	1,707,420
15 Indore	1,639,040
16 Vadodara	1,492,390
17 Bhopal	1,454,830
18 Coimbatore	1,446,030
19 Ludhiana*	1,395,050
20 Kochi	1,355,400
21 Visakhapatnam	1,329,470
22 Agra	1,321,410
23 Varanasi	1,211,740
24 Madurai	1,194,660
25 Meerut	1,167,390
26 Nashik	1,152,040
27 Jabalpur	1,117,200
28 Jamshedpur	1,101,800
29 Asansol	1,090,170
30 Dhanbad	1,064,350
31 Faridabad*	1,054,980
32 Allahabad	1,049,570
33 Amritsar	1,011,320
34 Vijayawada	1,011,150
35 Rajkot	1,002,160
Total	107,881,830

* Municipal Corporation **Rank in 2001

Source: Census of India, 2001

Sex Ratio: 1901-2001

Years	Sex Ratio Females per 1,000 males
1901	972
1911	964

he national average. In the field of cy, as against the national average of the literacy rate of SCs is around 37%. ing the SC women, more than three ers are illiterate. Moreover, the drop out n formal education is very high. Such rs put the community at disadvantage. ie population of Scheduled Tribes were crore (91 Census) constituting 8.08% e country's total population. Their literacy t 29.60%. Literacy among the women .19% compared to the national average 9.29%.

Indian Languages

ough Hindi is the national language, ia is believed to have 1652 mother gues of which 33 are spoken by people nbering over a lakh. The officially recog- ed languages are 22. In fact, English

is widely spoken and perhaps the link between North and South India.

Schedule Languages: A schedule—the 8th Schedule—was added to the Constitution to indicate all regional languages statutorily recognised. The Schedule originally contained 14 languages as follows:

(1) Assamese; (2) Bengali; (3) Gujarati; (4) Hindi; (5) Kannada; (6) Kashmiri; (7) Malayalam; (8) Marathi; (9) Oriya; (10) Punjabi; (11) Sanskrit; (12) Tamil; (13) Telugu; (14) Urdu.

Sindhi was added in 1962. By the 71st Amendment to the Constitution, Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added to the list in 1992.

In 2003, four more languages, were added: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali. (92nd Amendment)

Languages of India*- Number of Speakers

Language	Persons who have written the language as their mother tongue			Percentage to total population		
	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
Hindi	20,85,14,005	26,45,14,117	33,72,72,114	38.04	38.71	39.85
Bengali	4,47,92,312	5,12,98,319	6,95,95,738	8.17	7.51	8.22
Telugu	4,47,56,923	5,06,24,611	6,60,17,615	8.16	7.41	7.80
Marathi	4,17,65,190	4,94,52,922	6,24,81,681	7.62	7.24	7.38
Tamil	3,76,90,106+	N.A	5,30,06,368	6.88	N.A	6.26
Urdu	2,86,20,895	3,49,41,435	4,34,06,932	5.22	5.11	5.13
Gujarati	2,58,65,012	3,30,63,267	4,06,73,814	4.72	4.84	4.81
Kannada	2,17,10,649	2,56,97,146	3,27,53,676	3.96	3.76	3.87
Malayalam	2,19,38,760	2,57,00,705	3,03,77,176	4.00	3.76	3.59
Oriya	1,98,63,198	2,30,21,528	2,80,61,313	3.62	3.37	3.32
Punjabi	1,41,08,443	1,96,11,199	2,33,78,744	2.57	2.87	2.76
Assamese	89,59,558	N.A	1,30,79,696	1.63	N.A	1.55
Sindhi	16,76,875	20,44,389	21,22,848	0.31	0.30	0.25
Nepali	14,19,835	13,60,636	20,76,645	0.26	0.20	0.25
Konkani	15,08,432	15,70,108	17,60,607	0.28	0.23	0.21
Manipuri	7,91,714	9,01,407	12,70,216	0.14	0.13	0.15
Kashmiri	24,95,487	31,76,975	N.A	0.46	0.46	N.A
Sanskrit	2,212	6,106	49,736	N	N	0.01

N.A.: Not available; N: Negligible * Figures for 18 of the 22 Languages. Speakers of Bodo: 12,21,881 (1991 census); Dogri: 21,05,000 (1997 IMA); Santhali: 52,16,325 (1991 census); Maithili: 2,20,00,000 (1981 census).

Highlights of 10th Plan

Doubling of Per capita Income in 10 years
Achieving growth rate of 8% of GDP
annum • Reduction of poverty from
to 21% by 2007 • Decadal popula-
n growth to be reduced from 21.3%
1991-2001) to 16.2% in 2001-2011 •
Growth in gainful employment to keep
pace with the addition to labour force. •
All children to be in school and 5 years
schooling by 2007 • Reduce gender

gaps in literacy and wage rates by 2007
• Literacy Rate to be increased from 55%
to 75% by 2007 • Providing potable
drinking water in all villages • Infant Mor-
tality Rate to be reduced from 72 (1990-
00) to 45 in 2007 • Maternal mortality
ratio to be reduced from 4 (1990-2000)
to 2 in 2007 • Increase in forest cover
from 19% (1990-2000) to 25% by
2007 • Cleaning of major polluted river
stretches.

The Constitution

The Constitution of India was drawn up by a Constituent Assembly (established in accordance with the Cabinet Mission Plan) initially summoned on Dec. 9, 1946, under the presidentship of Sachidananda Sinha, for undivided India. On July 1, 1947, the British parliament passed the 'Indian Independence Act', to divide India into India and Pakistan. With the partition of India the representatives of East Bengal, West Punjab, Sind and Baluchistan, N-W Frontier Province and the Sylhet Dist. of Assam, which joined Pakistan, ceased to be members of the Constituent Assembly. On August 14, 1947, the Constituent Assembly met again as the Sovereign Constituent Assembly for the Dominion of India under the presidentship of Sachidananda Sinha. In the demise of Sinha, Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the President of the Assembly. The draft Constitution was published on 4th Nov. 1948. 284 out of 299 members

presented their signature to the draft Constitution and finally adopted on 26th Nov. 1949. It came into effect on 26th Jan. 1950.

Draft Constitution Drafting Committee

The work started on the drafting of the Constitution was entrusted to a committee of seven members known as the 'Drafting Committee'. The members were B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, K.T. Telang, Alluri Sitabai, K.M. Munshi, T.T. Krishnamachari and M.A. Jinnah. The committee was headed by B.R. Ambedkar. The committee submitted its report to the Constituent Assembly on 4th Nov. 1948. The draft Constitution was published on 4th Nov. 1948. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th Nov. 1949. It came into effect on 26th Jan. 1950.

The number of members of the Constituent Assembly was 299. It marked a decline of 24 members from the Constituent Assembly of 1946. The number of members was 284 in 1948. The number of members was 284 in 1948. The number of members was 284 in 1948.

921	955
931	950
941	945
951	946
961	941
971	930
981	934
991	927
001	933

Source: Census of India, 2001

Literacy Rate: 1951-2001			
Years	Persons	Males	Females
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86
1961	28.30	40.40	15.35
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16

Source: Census of India, 2001

Planning

Planning is the key to development for a developing country. For a mixed economy like India where both public sector and private sector exist alongside in the nation building process, the aim of the planning process is to offer quality of life to its citizens. In a welfare state equal opportunity in terms of education and employment, equitable distribution of wealth, health and social security are crucial.

To that end, in India we have the Planning Commission (constituted in

March 1950), National Planning Council (established in 1965), and National Development Council.

The Five Year Plans are drawn by the Planning Commission. Besides there have been three Annual Plans - (a) 1966-67 to 1968-69 (Plan holiday during War with China and Pakistan); (b) 1978-79 to 1979-80 (during Janata Government); and 1990-91 to 1991-92 (to bring about maximum employment and social transformation).

5-year Plan	Period	Outlays			
		Centre	States	UTs	Total
1. First Plan	1951-56	1241.00	828.00	-	2069.00
2. Second Plan	1956-61	2559.12	2240.88	-	4800.00
3. Third Plan	1961-66	3600.00	3725.00	175.00	7500.00
4. Fourth Plan	1969-74	8870.00	6606.47	425.00	15902.16
5. Fifth Plan	1974-79	19954.10	18265.08	634.06	38853.24
6. Sixth Plan	1980-85	47250.00	48600.00	1650.00	97500.00
7. Seventh Plan	1985-90	95534.00	80698.00	3768.00	180000.00
8. Eighth Plan	1992-97	247865.00	179985.00	6250.00	434100.00
9. Ninth Plan	1997-2002	489361.00	369839.00	*	859200.00
10. Tenth Plan	2002-07				

Note: First Plan total outlay is the 1952 Original Plan Provision; The Fifth Plan total outlay excludes Rs. 450.00 for Hill and Tribal Areas; Outlays are at prices at base year of Plan; * The State Outlay for Ninth Plan includes the figures for UTs.

The Tenth Five-year Plan (2002-07) was approved by National Development Council on 21 Dec 2002.

90. (2003) This Amendment provided that for elections to the Legislative Assembly of the State of Assam, the representation of the Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Tribes in the constituencies included in the Bodoland Territorial Areas District, so notified, and existing prior to the constitution of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District, shall be maintained.

91. (2003) This Article provides that the total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the total number of members of the House of the people.

92. (2003) This Article provides for the inclusion of four new languages, viz. Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

93. (2005) In this Amendment, a provision has been inserted that the state (i.e. Parliament or other legislatures) can make laws for the advancement of the SC, ST or the OBCs of citizens in matters of admission to educational institutions, including private unaided institutions.

94. (2006) This article provides that in article 164 of the Constitution, in clause (1), in the proviso, for the word "Bihar", the words "Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand" shall be substituted.

Miscellaneous Terms

Checks and Balances: A constitutional system in democracies as a safeguard from possible misuse of power.

Judicial Review: The power of the judiciary to review statutes or administrative acts and determine their constitutionality. In India any legislation can be subjected to judicial Review.

Extradition: The handing over by a foreign state of a person, accused of a crime, to the state where it was committed. Extradition is done through a treaty existing between independent nations.

Fillibustering: Practice by which a minority in a legislature uses non stop debate to block or delay action on a proposed bill. Members of the minority make long speeches and propose useless motions.

Floor Crossing: Changing one's allegiance from one party to another, especially in legislatures. The expression originated in the context that in most

of the legislatures the ruling party and opposition sit facing each other in the floor of the house.

Bureaucracy: The hierarchical structure of administrative set up for carrying out the administration of large organisations like government, industry, company etc. In bureaucracy, the authority is centralised and the officers are strictly graded in different levels with defined responsibilities.

Dictatorship: A form of government in which the political power is concentrated in one individual without any constitutional provisions against it. Dictatorship invest all power in a single person or political party. Dictators demand blind obedience from the people for the goals they set; like unity of the nation or development of the society etc. Dictators usually arise out of military coup, triumph of political movements or following war. Dictatorship usually degenerates to despotism and tyranny.

Members: Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Dr.K.M. Munshi, M.D. Saadulla, B.L. Mitter (was replaced by N. Madhava Rao) and D.P. Khaitan (was replaced by T.T. Krishnamachari).

The Indian Constitution closely follows the British Parliamentary model but differs from it in one important respect that is, the Constitution is supreme, not Parliament. So the Indian courts are vested with the authority to adjudicate on the constitutionality of any law passed by Parliament.

The Constitution consists of the following: 1. The Preamble; 2. Parts I to XXII covering Articles 1 to 395; 3. Schedules 1 to 12 and 4. An Appendix. Part IX-The panchayats and Schedule XI (Article 243-G) have been incorporated under 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992.

Amendments since 2000

80. (2000) deals with an alternative scheme for sharing taxes between the Union and the states.

81. (2000) provides that the unfilled vacancies of a year reserved for SC/ST kept for being filled up in a year as per Article 16, shall be considered separately for filling vacancies in the succeeding year and the previous list will not be considered for filling the 50% quota of the respective year.

82. (2000) provides that nothing in the article 355 shall prevent the state from making any provisions in favour of the members of SC/ST for relaxation in qualifying marks with respect to examination/job/promotion.

83. (2000) The Act amended Article 243M to provide that no reservation in

Panchayats be made in favour of SC/ST in Arunachal Pradesh where the whole population is tribal.

84. (2001) - The Act amended provisos to Articles 82 and 170(3) to readjust the territorial constituencies in the States, without altering the number of seats allotted to each State in House of People and Assemblies, including the S.C. & S.T. constituencies 1991.

85. (2001) - Amended Article 16(4A) to provide for consequential seniority in promotion by virtue of rule of reservation for the Government servants belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

86. (2002) provides for (i) insertion of a new article 21A that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the state may, by law, determine.

87. (2003) This Article provides that in Article 81 of the Constitution, in clause (3), in the proviso, in clause (ii), for the figures "1991", the figures "2001" shall be substituted.

88. (2003) This Article provides for the insertion of a new article 268A which states that taxes on services shall be levied by the Government of India and such tax shall be collected and appropriated by the government of India and the States in the manner provided in clause (2).

89. (2003) This Article provides for the amendment of Article 338 and insertion of a new article 338A which provides that there shall be a National Commission for ST.

60 Laws a Year

The Indian parliament made an average of 60 laws per year between 1947 and 2007. The largest number of laws made in a single year in independent India was in 1956 when 105 laws were enacted.

generation of farmers also practised rain-harvesting procedures. Thus, tanks were always associated with temples and religious institutions. Water harvesting in the community sharing became part of the spiritual and cultural heritage. Similarly biodiversity conservation was practised both through in situ on-farm conservation and ex situ Sacred Groves. Temple trees were chosen on the basis of their ecological significance. For example,

Temple Tree in the Lord Nataraja temple in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, is a mangrove species, *Exocaria agallocha*. This is because of the knowledge that mangroves serve as bioshields during coastal storms.

Exploitative Agriculture

Many of these traditional practices of natural resources conservation and sustainable use gradually gave way to the unsustainable exploitation of land, water, forest and biodiversity. Cereal-legume crop rotations gave way to monoculture. While on the one hand the green revolution, which marked the beginning of expansion of production through productivity improvement, became a blessing in terms of saving land and forests, on the other, it led to problems of land and water mining and environmental pollution arising from the excessive use of chemical pesticides and mineral fertilizers. The kinds of problems that exploitative agriculture can create were described by me at the Indian Science Congress held in Varanasi in January 1968 in the following words:

"Exploitative agriculture offers great dangers if carried out with only an im-

mediate profit or production motive. The emerging exploitative farming community in India should become aware of this. Intensive cultivation of land without conservation of soil fertility and soil structure would lead, ultimately, to the springing up of deserts. Irrigation without arrangements for drainage would result in soils getting alkaline or saline. Indiscriminate use of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides could cause adverse changes in biological balance as well as lead to an increase in the incidence of cancer and other diseases, through the toxic residues present in the grains or other edible parts. Unscientific tapping of underground water will lead to the rapid exhaustion of this wonderful capital resource left to us through ages of natural farming. The rapid replacement of numerous locally adapted varieties with one or two high-yielding strains in large contiguous areas would result in the spread of serious diseases capable of wiping out entire crops, as happened prior to the Irish potato famine of 1854 and the Bengal rice famine in 1942. Therefore the initiation of exploitative agriculture without a proper understanding of the various consequences of every one of the changes introduced into traditional agriculture, and without first building up a proper scientific and training base to sustain it, may only lead us, in the long run, into an era of agricultural disaster rather than one of agricultural prosperity."

Three International Conferences

During the last century three major international conferences examined the pathways to sustainable development,

Pemmican

North American Indians ate a cake of dried and powdered meat mixed with hot fat, which they called pemmican. The advantage of pemmican was that it kept for months. Travellers were fond of it because it was light to carry.

Towards an Ever-Green Revolution

Prof M S Swaminathan

Agricultural Scientist, Rajya Sabha member

Following the domestication of plants over 10,000 year ago leading to the birth of agriculture or settled cultivation, there was considerable emphasis on the sustainability of productivity. The immediate problems were two fold. First, there was a diminishing return from the soil leading to a gradual decline in yield. Therefore, it became important to develop methods by which the nutrients taken from the soil can be restored to it. The answer of the early farmers to this challenge was the introduction of shifting cultivation, which means abandoning the land for a few years after cropping for some years. Even today in the north-east of India, the practice of jhumming or shifting cultivation is still prevalent. However, the early cultivators practiced sustainable shifting cultivation in the sense that the land which was earlier under the plough was allowed to regenerate over many years before being put back under the plough. Unfortunately now the jhum cycle has become very short and there is no time for the earlier cultivated land to regenerate fully. Another method adopted for soil fertility restoration was the introduction of cereal - legume rotation on the one hand, and crop-livestock integrated farming on the other. The practice of ploughing back into the soil all agricultural residues was also adopted to improve the physical structure of the

soil as well as the soil organic matter. Thus, a sustainable system of soil health maintenance and enhancement was standardized through experience and experiment.

Crop Health Management

Another major problem faced by the early practitioners of settled agriculture was the incidence of pests and diseases. Crop health management became a major challenge. The response to this challenge was in the form of maintenance of agro-biodiversity, selection of resistant varieties, use of botanical pesticides and inter-cropping and multiple cropping. These all help to insulate agriculture from severe loss as a result of pest epidemics. In the temperate region, snow and extreme cold weather interrupt the pest cycle, but in the tropics crops are grown all round the year and there are alternative hosts for many major pests. This is why the pest load is very heavy in tropical agriculture. In the past, the multiple and intercropping systems adopted were designed to interrupt the pest breeding cycle. Crop mixtures and rotations perform in the tropics the same role as extreme weather conditions do in the temperate region in terms of preventing pest build-up.

In addition to the development and adoption of agronomic practices, which will help to maintain and enhance soil health and prevent pest epidemics, the

An Ornamental Plant

The potato was introduced into Europe in 1593 from South America as an ornamental plant. After Spain and Portugal, it came to England, where it was introduced by Sir. Walter Raleigh in the late 16th century.

of time. Another important component of equity relates to the gender dimension of sustainability science. Women have the great conservers of biodiversity and natural resources. Their role should be acknowledged and strengthened.

□ **Energy** - energy is a key factor in terms of both economic development and climate change. Integrated energy supply systems involving the optimum use of all renewable forms of energy like solar, wind, biomass, biogas, geothermal etc., have to be developed. Other opportunities like hydrogen and nuclear energy will have to be integrated into an over all sustainable energy security system.

□ **Employment** - Many of the livelihood opportunities in developing countries are based on the use of natural resources like land, water, forest and biodiversity. Emerging technologies tend to promote jobless economic growth. In population rich but land and water hungry countries, there is need for job-led economic growth. Therefore development experts and technology developers should take into account the impact of new technologies and management procedures on job and livelihood security. Jobless growth is joyless growth in population rich countries.

□ **Education** - Education is a cross cutting theme and has to take into account all the above-mentioned factors. Environmental literacy should be based on the principle of "do ecology". For example, in the case of biodiversity, there is need to create an economic stake in conservation. Orphan crops can be saved only if there are markets for them. Similarly in the case of nature tourism,



those who operate houseboats or hotels in eco-sensitive areas should be aware that good ecology is good business. Environmental education should always be based on practical examples, which can drive home the message, which is to be conveyed. Therefore, it should be based on field projects which can demonstrate how to organize ecotourism, conduct green audit, manage rain forests sustainably, etc. Just as action research programmes help to gather data on the economics and ecology of development projects, action education will derive its roots from field experience.

Countries like ours require do ecology and not just don't ecology. Education should go to the grassroot level and in this respect India is fortunate to have grassroot democratic institutions like Panchayats and Nagarpalikas. Electable members of these bodies should become environmentally literate. This is where modern information, communication technology involving the integrated use of the internet, cable TV, commun-

The Coming of Sandwich

Sandwich was invented by John Montagu, the Earl of Sandwich who lived in the 18th century. He found sandwich a convenience food, which he could eat while playing cards.

which can confer benefits to the present generation, without harming the interest of the generations yet to be born.

□ The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972)

□ The Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992

□ The World Summit on Sustainable Development held at Johannesburg in 2002

The Rio conference also led to the development of an Agenda 21 containing guidelines for sustainable development. In addition, global conventions on biodiversity and climate were also adopted at Rio. At Johannesburg, water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity and ecosystem management (WEHAB) were identified as priority areas for ensuring a sustainable future for humankind. At Stockholm, the then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi stressed that the social dimensions of sustainability particularly, the livelihood needs of the poor should be taken into consideration while developing plans and programmes for environment protection. Thus sustainability has to be measured in three dimensions - environmental, economic and social.

From the above, it will be clear that sustainability science is a multi-disciplinary field. It requires a holistic approach while analyzing problems like what I did in my analysis of high yield agriculture in 1968, before the term green revolution was coined by Mr William Gaud of USA in September 1968. Such an inter-disciplinary science has to be built on the following foundations.

□ **Ethics** - Ethical considerations will

have to guide human behaviour in relation to natural resources exploitation. Bioethics and environmental ethics are now developing into well-defined scientific areas. The ethical responsibility of safeguarding the environment rests on professionals, political leaders and the public. In the past by investing conservation with spiritual significance, every individual was made to integrate ethics in day today life.

□ **Economics** - Ecological economics does not permit depreciation of natural assets. Thus it has a time dimension of infinity. Ecological economics is also a fast developing science and it will help to measure the benefit - risk structure of development projects from the point of view of their long-term impact. Ecological economics should become part of the curriculum in technological and management institutions. All dependant on natural resources for their enterprise should understand that good ecology is the pathway to good and enduring business.

□ **Equity** - The concept of equity is now discussed in terms of both intra-generational equity and inter-generational equity (i.e. safeguarding the interests of the future generations). For example over-exploitation and pollution of the aquifer will deny opportunities for groundwater availability to future generations. Similarly, the melting of ice and glacier resulting in water shortage in cold desert areas like Ladakh will force the future generations to migrate from the area. Climate change leading to the melting of ice will not only cause floods in the plain but also a rise in sea level over a period

No to Eels

Some ancient Egyptians refused to eat eels because they worshipped them as gods. Others thought eels were indigestible.

lization of the conservation traditions of tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats region. Fifty years ago, the tribal communities in the Koraput region of Orissa were familiar with more than 1,000 land races of rice, but at the turn of the century, this figure had come drastically. "Dying wisdom" became linked to vanishing crops.

It became clear that the only way tribal families would once again start conserving agro-biodiversity would be by creating an economic stake in conservation. A dynamic programme of participatory conservation and breeding coupled with agronomic improvement soon led to a big spurt in the production of Kalajeera, an aromatic local variety, which is being snapped up by the market almost as soon as it is harvested. The same has started happening in Kerala with medicinal rices like Navara used in traditional ayurvedic practice, and with under-utilised millets in the Kolli Hills region of Tamil Nadu.

To cut a long story short, "do ecology" is triggered either by an ecological disaster or an economic opportunity. Preaching does not help. Enlightened self-interest, however, motivates people and leads to harmony with nature. This is happening in the green revolution areas of the Punjab too. Thirty years ago, when I pointed out to Punjab farmers that the "green revolution" was becoming a "greed revolution" because of the excessive use of mineral fertilizers and the over-exploitation of ground water, they listened politely, but did not change course. Now, in a despairing mood, they are ready to change. The economics of unsustainable farming has become adverse, leading to indebtedness, and occasional suicides. The "climate" has

become opportune for conservation farming.

Developing countries can address poverty and expanding local food should spread a 'do-ecology' technology, which can confer tangible ecological and economic benefits to the people. The industrialized countries with high standards of living and a highly educated population should press their "don't" regulations.

The Brundtland Commission Report was appropriately titled "Our Common Future", to emphasise that, irrespective of political frontiers, our future is ecologically intertwined. I would like to add that without a better common present, the hope for a better common future may remain elusive. Both unsustainable life styles and unacceptable poverty must vanish, if humankind is to have a better common present and future.

Sustainability Science

Sustainability Science is thus multidisciplinary and multidimensional. For each area of human activity, there is need to develop technologies, which can help to achieve the desired goal without associated ecological harm. For example, in the case of agriculture, which occupies the largest land area and utilizes over 75 percent of water resources, there is need for developing methodologies for achieving an Ever-green Revolution which alone can ensure enhancement of productivity in perpetuity. Conservation farming and green agriculture, which involve the use of integrated natural resources and pest management techniques, are the pathways to an ever-green revolution. This will call for anticipatory research, as

Agriculturists as M.P.s

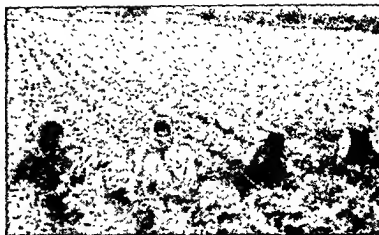
The largest group in the third Lok Sabha (1962-67) was agriculturists. Lawyers who formed the largest group in the first and second Lok Sabhas were placed in the second position.

radio and the cell phone will help to achieve last mile and last person connectivity in terms of knowledge empowerment. Distance education methods as promoted by the Indira Gandhi National Open University will be very important for reaching the unreached and voicing the voiceless.

'Do Ecology' and 'Don't Ecology'

Speaking on "Agriculture in our Space-ship Earth" in 1973, I proposed a twin strategy to deal with the growing damage to our life support systems. These were, "do ecology" for developing countries, and "don't ecology" for industrialized countries. The first revolves around activities, which will generate an economic stake in conservation and will help to reduce poverty. The "don't ecology", in contrast, largely relates to regulations and restrictions in areas such as carbon emissions and the unsustainable consumption of natural resources. Two examples of "do ecology" given below have a large potential for extrapolation.

First, the tsunami of December 26, 2004 resulted in a severe loss of life and property along coastal Tamil Nadu, where I now live. For over 15 years now, we have been trying to persuade coastal communities not to destroy the mangrove forests along the coast. But their livelihood preoccupations did not allow them to heed to that request. The tsunami miraculously changed their outlook. Villages adjoining thick mangrove forests were saved from the fury of the tsunami, because of the speed-breaker role played by the mangroves. In adjoining villages, where mangroves had been destroyed ei-



ther for fuel wood or aquaculture ponds, several hundred fisher people died. The area is near the temple town of Chidambaram, where centuries ago, the temple builders had chosen a mangrove species as the temple tree. Following tsunami there was a sudden awareness of the reason for this choice, and local people now refer to mangroves as "life-savers". What we could not achieve in 15 years by arguing that mangroves would serve as a bio-shield in the event of sea-level rise, was achieved in a day.

The same tsunami brought home to farmers near the shoreline the importance of conserving local land races of rice. Several thousand hectares of rice fields along the coast got inundated with seawater. Most varieties perished, but a few salt-resistant ones withstood the inundation. Conservation of local biodiversity got shot in the arm, and now every farmer wishes to maintain a field gene bank (i.e. in-situ on-farm conservation) and a seed bank. The calamity became an opportunity to prepare both fisher and farm communities to meet challenges linked to a rise in sea level. The bio-shield and agro-biodiversity conservation movements in this area have now become community-driven.

A second example relates to the rev-

Pearl Butter

Margarine was invented in the 1880s by a French chemist Hippolyte Mege-Mouries as an inexpensive substitute for butter. Its name comes from the Greek margaron, meaning pearl. It was formed in pearl-like flakes.

line like ayurveda, unani, siddha etc., there is a growing awareness of the importance of traditional systems of medicine. Saving plants for saving lives and livelihoods has become a global goal. Unfortunately, however, there is still no methodology for rewarding traditional knowledge, since it involves community recognition, although there are systems in place for providing financial recognition in the field of genetic resources conservation and sustainable use. For example, the Gene Fund provided for in the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Act and the Biodiversity Fund provided under the Biodiversity Act can be used for rewarding and strengthening the in situ on farm conservation traditions of local communities. It should be emphasized that while cryogenic ex situ conservation leads only to the preservation of specific genotypes, in situ on farm conservation results in both preservation and evolution. New genotypes through mutation and recombination can occur under conditions of in situ conservation, while ex situ methods involving cryogenic storage can only lead to preservation without loss of viability. Therefore, we should do everything possible to promote in situ conservation by recognizing and rewarding traditional knowledge and conservation techniques.

Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain (1997) have chronicled the dying wisdom in relation to water harvesting and conservation techniques developed over the ages. The US National Academy of Sciences has published a series of books on the Lost Crops of the Incas, Lost Crops of Africa

etc., WHO has been appealing to save plants to save lives, with reference to medicinal plants. Therefore no further time should be lost in preventing the erosion of traditional knowledge and local biodiversity. Saving plants and traditional wisdom are particularly important to face the challenges arising from global warming and climate change.

A Noah's Arc

There are around 1,500 gene banks in operation today in different parts of the world, providing facilities for ex situ conservation for an estimated six million species and varieties. More recently, the Scandinavian countries have established a long term seed storage facility under permanent frost conditions known as the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which can hold over 6 million seed samples. This will serve like a Noah's Arc in order to preserve for posterity a sample of genetic diversity currently occurring on our planet. However as already emphasized, cryogenic preservation will not give us the benefit of natural evolution and the further development of new genes and genotypes. This is why recognition of traditional knowledge and traditional conservation ethos is exceedingly important. Sacred groves and sacred trees constituted important methods of conserving economic, ecological and spiritual keystone species. These are also tending to get neglected.

Several steps have been taken in India to recognize and preserve traditional knowledge. A database on indigenous innovations is being set up in the Ministry of Management of Medicines under the leadership of Prof Anil Agarwal. The

India Leads in Livestock

India has the largest livestock population in the world. It has the largest buffalo population and 14 per cent of the world's population.

For example in the case of meeting the challenges of climate change, as well as participatory research and knowledge management in order to ensure that the recommended practices are socially compatible and feasible. Also education has to be derived from the adoption of an agro-climatic and agro-ecosystem approach, taking into consideration, the specific needs and opportunities prevailing in arid, semi-arid, hill, coastal, irrigated and island ecosystems. Harmony with nature should become a non-negotiable ethic. The rise and fall of great civilizations in the past have been related to the use and abuse of land, water and other natural resources. Therefore, sustainability science should hereafter guide all technology development and dissemination programmes.

Finally, population growth should not exceed the population supporting capacity of ecosystems. The human ecological footprint should be reduced through limiting wants and avoiding waste. Today over a billion women, men and children of the human population are living in absolute poverty and destitution. Another one billion are leading unsustainable life styles. Therefore, the ethical principles propagated by sustainability science should aim to curtail both poverty and unsustainable consumption of natural resources. This is the challenge before us from the point of view of ensuring the well being of both the present and future generations. To meet this challenge, we must integrate the best in traditional wisdom and frontier science like biotechnology and information and communication technology.

Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights

Knowledge is a continuum. Present day discoveries have often their roots in prior knowledge. Unfortunately the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime tends to ignore the contributions of traditional knowledge in the creation of new knowledge. This has led to accusations like biopiracy, plagiarism, knowledge piracy etc., The World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation (WIPO) has hence emphasized the need for recognizing the role of traditional knowledge in the growth of contemporary science and technology. Fortunately, the Global Biodiversity Convention adopted at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2001) have both stressed the importance of recognizing and rewarding traditional knowledge as well as the contributions of rural and tribal families to genetic resources conservation and enhancement through knowledge addition on their practical value. Our National Legislations, Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Act (2001) and Biodiversity Act (2002), have both emphasized the importance of recognizing and rewarding traditional knowledge and local agro-biodiversity, which often constitute the backbone of our food and livelihood security systems

Traditional Knowledge and Modern Science

Traditional knowledge has led to the growth of indigenous systems of medi-

Protein Availability

The present availability of human protein in an Indian diet is 10 gm. per person per day, as against a world average of 25 gm.

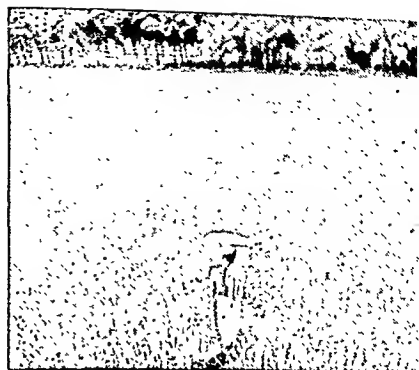
Food Security

Food security is likely to be a major casualty in an era of climate change. Adverse changes in precipitation, temperature and sea level will harm present and potential food production. This will be a disaster particularly in countries like ours where population is still growing and per capita land and water resources are shrinking. The most urgent task therefore is to strengthen our agricultural production systems under conditions of uncertain weather patterns.

Fortunately, short and medium term weather forecasting techniques are improving with reference to reliability. The India Meteorological Department has predicted a normal southwest monsoon this year. What should we do to maximize the benefits of a normal monsoon using environmentally benign technologies? In my view we should launch immediately a "bridging the yield gap movement" using clean technologies associated with conservation farming and green agriculture. The idea of the movement is to bridge the prevailing gap between potential and actual yields.

Bridging the yield gap in Rain-fed agriculture

Over sixty per cent of our cultivated area is still rainfed. The yield gap analysis for rain-fed crops in India undertaken by the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) led consortium has indicated that productivity of kharif sorghum can be increased 3.0 to 4.0 times, rabi sorghum 1.4 to 2.7 times and pearl millet 1.8 to 2.3 times from their current levels of productivity. Similarly, on an average, the productivity



of legumes and oilseeds can be increased 2.3 to 2.5 times their current levels of productivity. Supplemental irrigation using harvested rain water would further increase these yields.

Our committed goal should be to increase average productivity of selected crops in rainfed areas by at least 50% by 2010. This can be accomplished through the following steps:

- Achieve convergence and synergy among numerous ongoing programmes. Identify a suitable, independent, technically sound, neutral and respectable agency to lead the consortium. Nominate committed professionals from the identified institutions, linking authority and accountability at all levels.

- Adopt a holistic "Seed to Consumer" chain strategy. Identify responsible stakeholders in each district to ensure necessary convergence of all the relevant activities (agriculture, extension, marketing, fertilizers, seeds, agriculture, machineries, and credit and insurance institutions).

- Establish participatory action research cum demonstration trials. Identify 2-3 major rainfed crops and select 2-3 main districts growing large areas to start

Fertilizer Consumption

India is the third largest producer and consumer of fertilizers in the world.

Foundation for the Revitalization of Indigenous Health Traditions (FRLHT) is also maintaining a database on our heritage of both medicinal plants and traditional medicine and health practices. There are many other initiatives including the Community Gene Bank of MSSRF. We are yet to start a similar programme with animal genetic resources. India is very rich in animal wealth but unfortunately many important breeds including the Vetchur cow of Kerala are now endangered animals. We should institute a Breed Saviour Award to accord recognition to those who are conserving local breeds of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, poultry, etc., In the case of poultry, there is indiscriminate killing of native breeds of birds in order to prevent the spread of the H5N1 strain of the avian influenza. In this process, we may lose genes for resistance, in case any of the local breeds possess such genes. Therefore, we should establish an offshore quarantine island in one of the unmanned Lakshwadeep group of Islands, where in a high security green house testing of local poultry breeds for resistance to H5N1 strain could be conducted. We must strengthen our infrastructure for searching and saving genes, which can help us to overcome emerging challenges caused by both climate change and transboundary pests.

Global Environment Facility

There is need for National and International financing instruments for promoting the conservation of traditional knowledge and endemic bioresources. At the International level, the Global

Environment Facility (GEF) is financing measures to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification. More recently, a Global Crop Diversity Trust was set up in 2004 with an initial capital of USD 260 million. The Trust supports information systems for the concerns of agricultural biodiversity, including databases, documentation of collections and the exchange of information through networks. These international initiatives are important but what is more important is spread of genetic literacy among our population. Every child, woman and man should become aware of the value and significance of traditional wisdom and local biodiversity. This will become easier if there is an economic stake in conservation. We should establish biovalleys in areas rich in bio-resources. The aim of the Biovalley is to promote an era of biohappiness arising from the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity, leading to more jobs and income for the local population. Otherwise both traditional knowledge and native biodiversity may tend to disappear. The power of "the seeing eye and understanding heart" will be evident from the outstanding contribution of the farmer-breeder Mr Joseph Sebastian, whose cardamom variety "Njallani Green" is the ruling variety in the Idukki district. Njallani has helped to improve the productivity and profitability of Cardamom and illustrates the power of indigenous knowledge and observation power.

A Top Fruit Producer

India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables. Production of fruits is estimated at 49.36 tonnes from 4.81 m. ha., and vegetables 93.00 m. tonnes from 6.3 m.ha. India's share in world fruit and vegetable production is 10% and 13.28% respectively.

Maintaining and Expanding the Green Revolution

Our country owes our hard working farmers and women a deep debt of gratitude in the selfless manner in which they have contributed to government over 20 million tonnes of wheat in a global food environment marked by a crisis atmosphere. In this context I wish to describe briefly my approach to the procurement of commodities which sustain PDS, ICDS, School Lunch Meal Programme, etc.,

Nearly 80 percent of our farmers, who belong to the small and marginal farmer category, have no holding capacity and have the economic compulsion of having to sell their produce as soon as the crop is harvested since government's warehousing and godown schemes are unable to take off in a significant manner. This is why they appreciate government efforts through FCI and other agencies which provide cash immediately for the produce they bring to sell in the market. During the last rabi season, the usual winter rains failed and in addition there were unseasonal rains at harvest time. Fertilizers like DAP were not available in adequate quantities at the right time and place. In many parts of Punjab, the water table has also gone down involving greater expenditure of energy in pump-water. This is why I have been feeling that the procurement price should take into account the prevailing national and international market price as well as the escalation in the cost of production since the announcement of the support price.

Most small farmers may have at the most about 50-100 quintals to sell. If the margin between the cost of production and the procurement price is even 250 rupees per quintal, the 'net take home' of the farmer will come only to Rs. 1,000. This is all the reward for the hard work over a period of 6 months by

a family of 4-5 persons. This is one of the reasons for the persistence of pervasive rural poverty.

Following the amendment to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act (APMC), we will have two kinds of farmers - those who sell for public good and those who sell for commercial profit to private trade. In my view those who are contributing grains for public good through FCI and other government agencies should at least be given a Smart Card, which will entitle them to seeds, fertilizer implements and other essential inputs at concessional prices at sowing time.

Thus the whole purchase mechanism will have the following three components :

- Support price announced at the time of sowing
- Procurement price announced at the time of harvest based on prevailing national and international market prices
- Post-procurement recognition to farmers who sell for PDS and other nutritional safety net programmes through Smart Cards which will entitle them to inputs which can enhance farm productivity.

Finally, we must keep in view that unlike in industrialized countries the majority of consumers in our country are also producers of farm commodities, since they constitute two thirds of the population. Maintaining a balance between the interests of producer-consumers and mere consumers is no doubt a difficult task, but we can ill afford the expansion of the desire among farmers to quit farming. I hope the many new programmes like the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and the National Horticultural Mission will kindle interest in the younger generation in rural India to perfect the science and art of scientific agriculture.

the Bridging the Yield Gap Mission. In each of the selected districts, identify 10-15 villages during the first season to launch the programme. Identify lead/master farmers as master trainers and ensure that the requisite technical support as well as all the necessary inputs (seeds, fertilizers, machines, credit etc.,) are available at affordable cost at the right place and time.

- Ensure availability of quality inputs in a timely manner. Procure seeds of improved cultivars and "organize seed villages" to up-scale the initiative. Establish SHGs to handle village seed banks with necessary capacity building support, finance and necessary infrastructure for seed storage. Establish custom hiring farm machinery centers with quality machines including tractors if needed. Credit should be made available through a revolving fund mechanism or through banks on competitive interest rates and an initial holiday for payment or long-term repayment schedules.

- Assess and improve soil health. On-farm survey across various States revealed that out of 1926 farmer's fields, 88 to 100 per cent fields were deficient in available Sulphur; 72-100 per cent in available Boron and 67-100 per cent in available Zinc. On-farm trials with application of S and micronutrients at the rate of 30 kg S, 0.5 kg B and 10 kg Zn ha⁻¹ resulted in a 79 per cent yield advantage in maize; 61 per cent in castor; 51 per cent in green gram and 28 per cent in groundnut as compared to the yield levels without application of S and micronutrients. There is an urgent need to assess soil health in rain-fed areas, share the knowledge

with the farmers and develop suitable integrated nutrient management strategies with the help of experts. We need to bring in private industries in this initiative through public-private-partnerships (PPP) to ensure rapid scaling-up. IFFCO is rendering such help in Vidarbha.

- Identify high-yielding cultivars preferred by the farmers in target districts. We should have a basket of cultivars to avoid any unforeseen eventually affecting performance of a particular cultivar. Genetic homogeneity enhances genetic vulnerability to pests and diseases.

- Establish village seed and food banks in each target district by providing financial, technical and institutional support including policy support.

- Establish Agri-clinics and Agri-business centres to provide equipment relevant to the production and post-harvest phases of crop cultivation.

- Ensure procurement by providing an attractive procurement price based on national and global markets.

We cannot depend upon imported food to maintain our nutrition support safety nets such as the Public Distribution Systems (PDS), Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), and School Noon-Meal Programme. Food is the first among the hierarchical needs of a human being and this is likely to be the worst sufferer under conditions of global warming and sea level rise. Therefore, bridging the available yield gap using clean technologies is the need of the hour. Productivity enhancement must be accompanied by opportunities for assured and remunerative marketing.

Harnessing the Bamboo Wealth

A National Bamboo Mission programme aimed at bringing about one lakh hectares under bamboo has been launched. This is to generate income and employment opportunity through bamboo and its ancillary industry.

food articles and non-food articles. Table 2 shows that the rate of inflation has been high in the case of food articles such as food grains, milk, egg, meat, fish, condiments and spices and other food articles since March 2005. In the case of non-food articles there has been a spurt in inflation since March 2006 (Table 2).

Fuel, power, light and lubricants is another group of commodities which registered a price rise since 2002-03 (Table 3). Among the five years, this commodity group registered a higher level of price increase in the Petroleum products like aviation turbine fuel, naptha, bitumin and furnace oil registered a substantial increase. A notable development was the low variation in the prices of electricity.

The movement of WPI is largely determined by the trends in the prices of manufactured products as this group has a weightage of 63.75 percent. Table 4 shows that the three years which witnessed a higher level of price rise of manufactured products were 2003-04, 2006-07 and 2007-08. Among the individual items edible oil, beverages, cement, iron and steel are the products which registered a higher rise in prices between 2002-03 and 2007-08. During the year 2007-08, the item which registered the highest increase was iron and steel followed by edible oils and food products.

The inflation rate which was about 6.21 on 1st March, 2009 began to rise substantially during the period between March and June 2008. The inflation rate increased from 7.41 per cent in the week ended March 28, 2008 (Table 5). The spurt in inflation was largely due to continuous increase in the price of primary

commodities, fuel and power as well as manufactured products.

The unprecedented rise in the crude oil price in the international market has also forced to push up the price level of petroleum products in the country. The price hike of petrol (Rs. 5 per litre), diesel (Rs. 5 per litre) and Rs. 50 per L.P.G. cylinder on June 5, 2009 has also pushed the inflation to double digit level since then. And it is the highest rate of inflation experienced in 13 years in India.

Consequences

The spurt in inflation has created very severe consequences in the Indian economy. First it created a situation of stagflation where the country persistently suffers from both high inflation and high unemployment. Second, the adverse effect of the inflation is not confined to one sector or sub sector but it is spreading to all sectors and the entire economy. Third, the economy has been experiencing recession and it is likely that growth rate will be much lower than the previous period; Fourth, it will result in large fall in employment in many sectors of the economy. Fifth, due to shortages of basic fuels, petroleum products, electricity, iron and steel etc., the economy will experience shortages, problems and bottlenecks in infrastructural development. Sixth, the possibility of further hike in the prices of petroleum products will push the entire economy into the severe crisis. Seventh, the shortages of food grains and edible oils at the international front will sustain the high prices of these commodities. Eighth, the stock market crisis will continue and a recovery to the earlier position is not

Women and Food

According to FAO statistics, women and girls make up 60 p.c. of the hungry people in the world. And women produce between 60-100 per cent of the food in the

Sput in Inflation During 2008

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The year-on-year inflation rate of India went upto a 13 year high of 11.42 per cent for the week ended June 14, 2009. The inflation rate was only 6.21 per cent for the week ended March 1, 2008. Thus between the week ended March 1 and June 14, the rate of inflation almost doubled. Many factors, both domestic and external, have contributed to the spurt in inflation rate. The purpose of the article is to examine the trends, causes and consequences of the spurt in inflation rate.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which is available on a weekly basis, is the popular measure of headline inflation in India. Being headline it includes the entire set of commodities in the general price index. It is an economy-wide index covering 435 commodities. In the revised series with base year 1993-94, the three major groups viz., primary articles, fuel, power, light and lubricants and manufactured products have been accorded the weightages of 22.03 percent, 14.23 per cent and 63.75 per cent, respectively.

WPI is also computed by two methods giving two different rates of inflation. One method is to estimate the point-to-point rise in prices i.e., compare the most recent WPI with the price level at another point of time in the past, usually a year ago. A merit of the estimate is that it will give short-term trends in inflation rate such

as weekly rate. But the demerit is that it will give misleading results in the movement of prices over a period of time since many prices follow a seasonal pattern. The second method is to estimate average level of prices over a period of time such as averages of week for a year. And this rate of inflation will give a better and comprehensive picture about the trend in prices over a period of time.

Based on the point-to-point variation in WPI, we attempt an examination of trends in inflation since 1999-2000. The WPI increased from 145.3 points in March 2000 to 226 points in March 28, 2008. Table 1 gives the inflation rate for all commodities and the major group such as primary articles, fuel, power light and lubricants and manufactured products from 1999-2000 to 2007-08. The major cause for the higher rate of inflation in the above three years was the increase in the price of primary articles and manufactured products. During the three years price hike of fuel and power was also a major cause for the growth of inflation except 2006-07.

An attempt is made to examine the trends in inflation of different commodity groups such as primary articles, fuel, power, light etc. and manufactured products during the five years between 2002-03 and 2007-08. The major commodity groups coming under primary articles are

Curtailling Tobacco Use

A proposal under consideration by government to reduce tobacco consumption is to levy a 5 paise cess on each cigarette stick. This could yield nearly Rs. 500 cr. per annum.

Coal Mining	1.75	9.22	17.09	0.00	0.00	8.77
Coking Coal	0.24	8.78	26.86	0.00	0.00	10.33
Non-coking coal	1.40	9.64	15.65	0.00	0.00	9.11
Mineral Oils	6.99	-0.03	16.03	13.15	0.77	9.22
Petrol	0.88	0.64	12.01	14.61	-0.04	4.27
Aviation Turbine Fuel	0.17	-11.74	24.73	37.35	-4.15	38.70
High Speed Diesel Oil	0.17	-11.74	24.73	37.35	-4.15	38.70
Naptha	0.42	-2.47	29.08	21.89	6.29	33.73
Bitumin	0.15	11.63	0.31	37.65	19.89	36.38
Furnace Oil	0.49	-4.51	11.71	7.87	-8.65	37.59
Electricity	5.48	4.90	0.79	4.51	2.29	1.51

Source: Economic and Political Weekly, May 10, 2008

Table 4

**Movements in WPI of Manufactured products (Base 1993-94 = 100).
Variation in per cent (point-to-point)**

Commodities	Weight (percent)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Manufactured products	63.75	6.67	4.64	1.66	7.04	7.12
Food products	11.54	9.74	0.40	0.86	5.92	9.08
Edible Oil *	2.76	6.56	-8.39	-2.37	13.62	20.06
Beverages tobacco and tobacco products	1.34	1.96	6.49	6.05	9.11	6.91
Textiles	9.80	8.84	-5.68	-0.46	2.14	-4.19
Wood & Wood Products	0.17	0.34	0.17	15.50	3.85	0.00
Paper and Paper Products	2.04	-1.14	2.37	5.14	3.44	1.40
Leather and Leather Products	1.02	15.10	9.64	-4.76	5.58	-0.18
Rubber and Plastic Products	2.39	1.95	-1.25	4.48	10.64	5.62
Chemicals & Chemical Products	11.93	0.11	3.92	3.56	3.59	5.38
Non-metallic mineral products	2.52	3.00	11.38	8.55	10.34	6.00
Cement*	1.73	1.29	10.20	12.97	13.42	5.13
Basic metals, Alloys and Metal Products	8.34	22.06	17.14	-2.90	16.66	20.02
Iron and Steel *	3.64	34.55	21.33	-7.54	15.97	34.20
Machinery and Machine tools	8.36	3.15	7.07	3.89	8.56	3.64
Transport Equipment & Parts	4.29	1.43	6.23	1.20	1.81	4.65

* Item included in the precious head

Source: Economic and Political Weekly, May 10, 2008

Table 5

Growth in WPI inflation rate (percent) (Year on Year)

Commodity Group	Weight (Percentage)	Week ended March 28, 2008	Week ended June 14, 2008
All Commodities	100.00	7.41	11.42
Primary Commodities	22.03	8.89	10.96
Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.23	6.65	16.37
Manufactured Products	63.75	7.12	9.74

Source: Economic and Political Weekly, May 10, 2008. & The Hindu Business Line, June 28, 2008

attainable. These developments will create severe problems to the price and the financial stability of the country in the

immediate future. Almost all sections of the people will experience the adverse effects of inflation

Table 1

**Movements in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base 1993-94 = 100).
Variation in percent (point-to-point)**

Year	All Commodities	Primary Commodities	Fuel Power	Manufactured products
2000-01	100.0	22.03	14.23	63.75
2001-02	1.3	3.90	3.86	0.00
2002-03				
2003-04	4.64	1.63	2.54	6.67
2004-05	5.10	1.27	10.50	4.64
2005-06	4.06	5.40	8.92	1.66
2006-07	6.69	11.69	1.20	7.04
2007-08	7.41	8.89	6.65	7.12

Source: Economic and Political Weekly, May 10, 2008.

Table 2

**Movements in WPI of Primary Articles (Base 1993-94 = 100).
Variation in Percent (Point-to-point)**

Commodities	Weight (percent)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Primary Articles	22.03	1.63	-1.27	5.40	11.69	8.89
Food Articles	15.40	0.17	2.97	6.59	9.40	6.07
Food Grains	5.01	-0.51	2.22	9.26	7.86	5.44
Fruits & Vegetables	2.92	-4.95	11.62	2.12	12.37	8.26
Milk	4.37	8.36	-1.66	1.85	8.40	7.65
Eggs, Meat & Fish	2.21	-6.46	7.30	14.34	8.15	1.48
Condiments & Spices	0.66	0.15	-12.81	12.05	17.61	7.97
Other Food Articles	0.24	-5.89	22.07	11.02	12.88	3.76
Non-Food Articles	6.14	4.10	-6.93	-1.92	17.18	11.13
Fibres	1.52	12.31	-19.23	-0.68	17.08	13.77
Oil Seeds	2.67	-1.16	-6.49	-7.84	31.10	18.72
Other non-food articles	1.95	5.34	0.89	3.58	4.22	0.56
Minerals	0.48	25.25	67.97	43.56	17.53	41.76

Source: Economic and Political Weekly, May 10, 2008.

Table 3

**Movements in WPI of Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants
(Base 1993-94 = 100). Variation in percent (point-to-point)**

Commodities	Weight (percent)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.23	2.54	10.50	8.92	1.20	6.65

main of activities that each encompasses. For instance medical tourism may sometimes be narrowly defined as involving only a subset of those activities limited to the medical procedural-pharmaceutical complex while health tourism may sometimes be more broadly understood to involve activities that include 'alternative' medical treatments, therapies, lifestyle and health resorts etc. The distinction is sometimes useful as when we focus on issues related to 'medical insurance' and the 'health care industry' and at other times less useful when we try to discern the larger social and economic impact of health or medical tourism.



Depending on their economic circumstances Indians are no less likely to travel long distances, even abroad, seeking better medical treatment as the experience of many politicians and film stars can duly attest. Having established that medical tourism itself is not a new thing, even in India, it is still important to point out what is new about its latest manifestation. In a nutshell what differentiates the Indian medical tourist from the global medical tourist is the focus on not 'better' treatment but on 'cheaper' treatment. What prompts the global medical tourist, for e.g. the American patient, to fly half way around the globe to a hospital in India is not because health care in India is better but because the costs of standardized medical and surgical procedures in India is far less.

Medical Tourism as a Facet of Globalization

The determining factor that lower cost play in driving medical tourism cannot be overstated. According to Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Founder and Chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group, "Compared to countries like the UK or the US, proce

Medical Tourism: Is it a new thing?

In one sense medical tourism is hardly a new phenomenon. For long, people have travelled to other places in search of better medical treatment. The presence of reputable medical services has often acted as a spur to local economic activity either directly or as a spin off. One only need look at the hive of small businesses bustling around the location of any medium large hospital to realize the truth of this statement. You not only find pharmacies, laboratories and medical supply stores but also a number of eateries, hotels, lodges, banks, general stores and transportation hubs. Secondly India has also for many decades now served as a destination for those seeking better medical treatment or facilities within the SAARC and West Asia region. In general, most Indians themselves are likely to be medical tourists at some level determined primarily by their disposable income.

The Birth of Aspirin

The 'Peruvian bark' had been used since the 1640s to bring down fevers. In 1758, the English clergyman Edward Stone

Medical Tourism in India

Dr. Rahul S. Nair
Denver, USA

Recently the *New York Times* newspaper ran a story about an American patient who was flown all the way to India to successfully undergo a heart procedure at a top notch private hospital in Bangalore. At the same time, the reporter noted, in that metropolitan vicinity in the latest 'hooch tragedy', more than a hundred migrant labourers lost their lives after drinking illicitly brewed liquor, a death toll whose numbers rose because many of their families could not reach or afford proper medical care in time that might otherwise have saved precious lives. This perceptive report brought to the reader's attention two seemingly anomalous features that nevertheless seem characteristic of recent developments in India.

The first is that of rampant and deep-rooted poverty of the many (a persistently large number) amidst the presence of plenty of a few (though substantial and growing of late). Unequal access to (and often absence of) health care is the familiar variant, yet nonetheless more tragic because of it, of the iniquitous dualism that even after nearly six decades of 'development' still characterizes social and economic structures in India.

The second is the more novel phenomenon of citizens of the 'first world', rich and developed nations, choosing to undergo medical procedures or treatment

in a 'third world' country such as India albeit in multi-speciality hospitals. These well equipped hospitals with state of the art equipment, often staffed with doctors and nurses with substantial work experience acquired from working in hospitals abroad, boast and deliver medical care comparable or superior to what is available in most developed country hospitals



at a fraction of the cost. These hospitals advertise and offer 'medical package tours' that not only include medical operations and procedures but also travel to and from the hospital, stay and recuperation at 'five star facilities' to attract the attention and custom of first world patients as well as well-heeled domestic ones. This phenomenon is commonly termed health or medical tourism.

As an aside on terminology, for our current purposes we shall treat health and medical tourism as similar though in its proper sense they may differ in the do-

170 Million Diabetics

At least 170 m. people globally have diabetes, with numbers expected to double by 2030. Five to 10 p.c. have type-1 diabetes, caused when the immune system mistakenly destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

proportionately in favour of graduating doctors rather than nurses compared to other countries. Consequently India has exported doctors to other developed countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and those in West Asia, a typical example of brain drain and the subsidizing of first world health by the tax resources of an impoverished third world country. No doubt these physicians have been able to acquire greater skill by working with state of the art technology and being exposed to the latest developments and best procedures in medical science.

Indeed a major selling point of medical tourism is precisely its ability to attract these Indian doctors to return from abroad to work (either full time or part time) in these multi-speciality hospitals where they would not lack for the latest and the best in equipment or technology. Newly returned non-resident Indian (NRI) physicians have served not only as the poster-boys (and girls) of medical tourism in India but in some cases have been prime movers in setting up such hospitals incorporating the latest in medical technology and medical practices, and often bringing with them their entire support staff in order to replicate in minute detail the environment of a first world facility.

Of course this reverse brain drain of NRI physicians could not have taken place without certain enabling factors. These relate to the process of opening up of the Indian economy itself, involving the ability to undertake larger quantum of private investment (including foreign investment) in the health sector (multi-speciality hospitals require heavy capital

investment upfront), more permissive rules on importing medical technology and improvements in transportation and communications infrastructure. The potential to establish backward and forward linkages with a maturing Indian pharmaceutical industry and growing sophistication of indigenous medical equipment manufacturers may well be another reason that makes India an attractive destination.

Medical Tourism: A Mixed Blessing

There are certainly large sums being bandied about the full potential of medical tourism in India. A much cited CII-McKin-



sey study estimates that medical tourism can contribute Rs 5,000-10,000 crore additional revenue for up-market tertiary hospitals by 2012. Leaving aside these astounding figures for the moment, a few preliminary remarks may be in order here regarding the larger effects of medical tourism for Indian economy and society. There is legitimate concern that medical tourism, much like economic liberalization, will further exacerbate the divisions between the haves and the have-nots which now will include those with access

DDT's Entry and Exit

DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) was introduced in 1939 as a bug-killer and heralded as a big success for agriculture. Within 20 years many insects developed strains resistant to the poison. It also killed beneficial insects and predators.

cedures like heart bypass surgery or angioplasty come at a fraction of the cost in India, even though the quality of doctors and medical equipment is comparable to the best in the world. A heart bypass surgery in India costs USD 6,500, while in the US it costs between USD 30,000 and USD 80,000." The great emphasis placed on keeping costs down makes medical tourism part and parcel of the process of globalization. The economic logic that has resulted in the transfer of industry and services to regions where costs of production are the lowest is the same that underlies medical tourism as well.

Once we recognize that health care is a service industry just like the 'call centres' in India that fulfils the needs of various customers in the United States and other first world countries much of the radicalism of medical tourism seems very ordinary and common place. It is no different from the business process outsourcing (BPO) model that underpins the rapidly growing information technology (IT) sector in India. The same cost cutting impulses that lead multi-national corporations to off-shore and outsource business processes and production to other countries, also compels private and national health insurers to encourage their customers to consider undertaking certain medical procedures in India. It is crucial to note that it is not only the penny pinching or uninsured individual who is looking for a cheaper deal as it were, but increasingly large private or public health carriers who are looking to rein in the galloping costs of health care on the one hand and to whittle down long

waiting lists of patients requiring medical procedures in the developed world. For example, according to the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation, a leading health policy foundation in the U.S., "expenditures in the United States on health care surpassed \$2 trillion in 2006... [and] accounted for 16% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Total health care expenditures grew at an annual rate of 6.7 percent in 2006, a slower rate than recent years, yet still outpacing inflation and the growth in national income." It is therefore no wonder that health care providers are actively exploring facilities in India as a way to reduce costs.

Why India?

The advantages that India offers as a destination for medical tourism are similar to those that make it an attractive option for IT off shoring. Much like the legion of engineers that dominate the IT sectors, Indian doctors are educated in English under a medical curriculum that was closely modelled on the British system. After independence the Indian government expanded medical education starting a number of new medical colleges at the state level and also financing medical centres of excellence such as AIIMS. In the last decade or so there has been growing private investment in medical education as well, with a number of private medical colleges being started. The cost of a medical education has been relatively cheaper in India with a bulk of the expense being subsidized by the government. A peculiar feature of medical education in India is that the numbers have been skewed dis-

Sunshine, Our Hope

Sunshine bathes the Earth with more energy than the planet's population consumes. According to futurologist Ray Kurzweil, we only need to capture one part in 10,000 of the sunlight that falls on the Earth to meet 100% of our energy needs. This will become feasible with nanoengineered solar panels and nanoengineered fuel cells.

professional advancement increase. It may have valuable spill-over effects on the rest of the economy but more importantly for the health sector itself. It will continue to attract a reliable stream of clients, Indian hospitals catering to medical tourism have willingly adopted and have had to maintain) very high standards of medical practice. This may require greater efforts towards effective self-regulation among these hospitals as they realize the importance of protecting the 'market brand' where the short-sighted practices of a few renegade members can cause industrywide damage and loss of confidence which may be impossible to regain. Much like export firms, exposure to a competitive global market will induce gains in cost efficiency and quality consciousness which may in turn be passed on to domestic consumers. Hopefully along with medical technology, better medical practices will also be adopted by second tier hospitals catering more exclusively to a domestic clientele. Indeed once exposed to superior medical practices, it is more than likely that Indian consumers will demand better quality in their own care.

Lower costs being the bedrock of medical tourism, this capital intensive service industry cannot sustain itself on temporary cost advantages. In order to ensure that costs remain lower, the industry will have to encourage, directly or indirectly, investment in medical education and research. This may take the form of lobbying the government or accreditation bodies such as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to periodically raise the quality of medical

and nursing graduates and the standards of the medical curriculum. It may take the direct form of setting up new medical colleges with updated educational curricula and facilities, increased focus on research and development of various kinds, or more plausibly greater avenues for apprenticeships and training of medical personnel so that skills are continually updated.

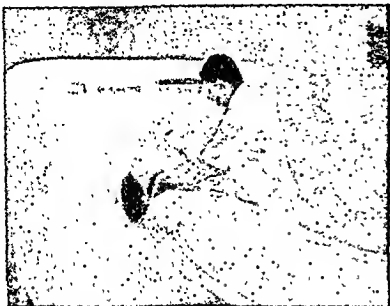
The question of sustainability allows one to consider another possibility that will have a more direct bearing on health care for the Indian masses. In a globalizing world of cut-throat competition this new medical industry may soon discover that its most valuable asset is its pool of domestic customers. As external demand waxes or wanes for their services, the industry may out of its own self interest press the Indian state to institute some form of comprehensive health coverage for its population as part of its social safety net. It is possible to contemplate a future when this may well dovetail with a government that takes its own rhetoric of economic and social justice seriously. With certain kinds of central government employees already being allowed to avail themselves of treatment at these private multi-speciality hospitals, it may prove politically and morally untenable for the government not to offer some kind of coverage for the rest of the population. It is not an impossible dream that the migrant workers which this article briefly referred to in the beginning and the medical tourists from the first world who today seem to belong to two different universes, may ultimately both manage to live in the same one.

Professional Nursing

Professional nursing in India began when 10 qualified British nurses came to serve in military hospitals. The year 1946 saw the setting up of a nursing college in Delhi. Another one was begun in Vellore in the following year.

to the best medical facilities and those whose lives will be tragically cut short because of the continuing lack of access to basic preventable health care.

Thus far medical tourism has benefited from the benign neglect of the govern-



ment which has saved it from being smothered in its infancy by overregulation. However it is inevitable that in the coming years due to the sheer potential size of this service sector the government will have to shake off its habit of indifference. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has of late been pressing the government to treat medical tourism as a national priority sector which would bring in its wake a full blast of tax and other incentives. The need for greater state involvement arises from another less savoury aspect as well. This has to do with the seamier side of medical tourism which has also benefitted from the absence of state regulation or more commonly ineffective implementation. There exists a class of medical tourists who see India as an easier source to obtain transplant organs such as kidneys for which they may have to wait for years in their own countries. Going by the frequent reports in the media about organ and kidney

rackets there is cause to believe that this kind of predatory medical tourism is a serious problem. Given the enormous social and economic inequality and deprivation prevalent in India the possibility of exploiting weaker off sections in this medical organ trade is only too real. It is also not inconceivable that despite protestations to the contrary, even the most reputed of hospitals may play a passive facilitating role in this organ trade. It is imperative that the government should take a more active regulatory role in order to prevent medical tourism from descending into an extension of the illegal organ trade. There is a strong case to be made for greater government regulation and vigilance in order to protect medical tourism from its own worst excesses.

The revenue oriented models that trumpet the benefits of medical tourism suffer from the moral tension that national health and welfare cannot be held captive to the profit motive. And sceptics may well point out that providing low cost health options to foreigners does little to improve health overall for Indians. It is also clear that medical tourism cannot be an excuse for continued government neglect of public health or of retreating further from this arena pleading financial and budgetary constraints. If medical tourism is indeed a net revenue generator for the government it would do well to increase its allocation for public health.

The more durable gains of medical tourism may be more imperceptible gains that are difficult to precisely quantify. One of the immediate benefits may be that of reversing the brain drain, with more trained personnel opting to stay back in India as opportunities for employment

Pacemaker's Progress

Each year more than one million patients worldwide receive a pacemaker. Now a pacemaker that will inform doctor in case of an emergency has been invented.

tion', he wrote in 1939. The same was also expressed, albeit differently, by Savarkar even earlier in 1929. His strand of thinking also excluded the followers of non-Indic religions, those originated outside India, from 'Indian Society' and designated the followers of all Indic religions as Hindus. This is cultural monism made easy and simple.

'Secular' social scientists are apt to criticize political ideologues but they often forget that academics too have expressed biases and/or views which have similar implications. Thus, historian Radhakumud Mukherji referred to India's wholeness based on geography and predominantly Hindu culture, economic self-sufficiency and the interdependence of her linguistic regions in 1914, that is, before Golwalker and Savarkar expressed their views. Similarly, sociologist G.S. Ghurye published the book, *The Scheduled Tribes—So Called* in 1943, in which he argued that the Scheduled Tribes are but 'backward' Hindus. But they reject this description and insist that their culture and religion are different from those of Hinduism and prefer to call themselves adivasis, that is, early settlers. N.K. Bose, the anthropologist, referred to the process of acculturation that the adivasis were subjected to as the 'Hindu mode of absorption.'

Sanskritization

The notion of sanskritization floated by M.N. Srinivas assumed the superiority of upper caste norms and values which the lower castes willingly adopted. D.P. Mukherji, widely believed to be a Marxist (although he preferred to call himself a Marxologist) said in his first presidential

address to the All India Sociological Conference in 1955: 'Unless sociological training in India is grounded on Sanskrit or any such language, in which traditions have been embodied as symbols, sociological training in India will be a pale imitation of what others are doing. Further, Mukherji insisted: 'All our Shastras are sociological'. The fact that the Shastras are in Sanskrit and it was/is the prerogative of the Brahmin males to have access to them renders Indian Sociology in reality Brahminology, as anthropologist Ayyappan, an Ezhava by birth from Kerala used to remark. All the articulations I have referred to are pro-Hindu and/or pro-upper caste.

Not only Hindutva ideologues and some 'secular' academics but the Indian state and its Constitution, widely hailed as secular, too have their fault lines. Let me illustrate it with a couple of examples. In the British Indian Census there was a religious category designated as animists/naturalists: the Adivasis, who have not embraced one of the 'world religions'. But free India's first Census in 1951, abolished this religious category and absorbed them into Hinduism. They counted around three percent in 1931 and today they would have been more than thirty million. This fact is very significant in the context of the animosity unleashed against Christians and Muslims by Hindu militants, because one of the reasons for this animosity is that these non-Indic religions are accused of indulging in proselytization by providing material incentives. But rarely does one come across any criticism of the Indian state invoking the Census as a political instrument to secure adverse caste treatment thereby endangering the constitutional

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, formerly launched in January 2003, covers all workers in the unorganized sector who come in the category of BPL. It provides

Indian Society: Clash of Perspectives

Dr. T.K. Oommen

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The quest to understand India is old but it continues and persists. *The Wonder that is India* is the title of a well-known book. 'Incredible' is the adjective that the tourist circuit invokes to refer to India. Some think that India is still an 'idea'. However, by the first few decades of the twentieth century several articulations by Indian intellectuals surfaced and most of these were responses to formulations about India by the British colonisers. Let me refer to just two of these formulations.

Territory of Many Nations and Languages

In 1883, Sir John Seely observed: "India is (the reference was to the Indian subcontinent in all the pre-partition articulations) only a geographical expression like Europe or Africa. It does not make the territory of a nation and a language, but the territory of many nations and languages". Then in 1888 John Strachey was even more subversive in his observation, '...there is not and never was an India...no Indian nation, no people of India'. That is, there are several Indias, peoples and nations in India.

Understandably, several sharp responses were articulated against these and similar other observations. The prominent among these conceptualizations formulated in pre-partition India and continue to be

in vogue in Independent India are the following: India is an ancient civilization, a composite culture, a political unit, a religious entity, a geographical space with specific cultural ethos and a collective linguistic nationalities. I do not intend to discuss these well-known formulations here. However, the fact that independent India is in existence for six decades and yet there is no consensus in our understanding about India is a matter of grave concern. As I see it, there are four competing conceptualizations about contemporary India in currency today. I shall designate them as cultural monism, cultural pluralism, cultural subalternism and cultural federalism. I propose to analyse these perspectives in some detail.

The former two of these crystallized pre-Independent India and the latter two perspectives emerged in Independent India. Cultural monism, as the expression indicates, conceptualizes India as a single cultural unity: one nation, one culture, one people as articulated by the Sangh Parivar. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) often invokes it as a political slogan to emphasize the 'national' unity of India. The intellectual ancestry of this idea can be traced to the statement of Guru Golwalkar: 'In this country Hindus alone are national and Muslims and others, if not actually anti-national, are at least outside the body of

Aam Admi Bima Yojana

Under a new scheme called "Aam Admi Bima Yojana" (AABY), launched on October 2, 2007 insurance to the head of the family of rural landless households will be provided against natural death as well as accidental death and partial/permanent disability. This cover is Rs. 75,000 on death due to accident and permanent disability.

co-national wholes and transform
ity into community'. Historian, Tara-
d, emphasized the efforts of Kabir, the
poet, to fuse Hinduism and Islam and
harlal Nehru was more explicit. He
te in *Discovery of India*: 'Akbar became
great representative of the old Indian
l of synthesis of differing elements
their fusion into common national-
If these optimistic assessments were
rect the 'two nation theory' would
have gained currency culminating in
partition of the subcontinent. India's
emporary history would have been
erent.

Why is it that cultural pluralism, and secular nationalism implicated in it, did not make much inroads at the grass roots? It suggests that secular nationalism was not as emotionally appealing as religious nationalism, although the idea was advocated by a large number of respected leaders. Countering the Hindu militant position Madan Mohan Malviya noted as early as 1905 that: 'Hindustan is no longer exclusively a Hindu country'. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi asserted: 'The Hindus, the Mohammedans, the Parsis and the Christians who have made India their country are fellow countrymen', in his *Hind Swaraj*. In spite of these assertions and sentiments secular nationalism did not gain much ground so as to counter religious nationalism.

There was yet another deficit in juxtaposing religious nationalism with secular nationalism; the latter only took into account the empirical reality in North India, where the two Great Traditions of Hinduism and Islam were in tension. The grand narrative of pluralists completely ignored

the internal tensions within Hinduism; the tensions between Aryan Hinduism and Dravidian Hinduism. (It seems that the cultural monists are aware of it but do not endorse it openly, and their project hopes to integrate Hinduism into a pan Indian force). If Aryan Hinduism saw Rama as the national hero, Sanskrit as the mother of all languages, and the twice-born upper casts as its bulwark, Dravidian Hinduism projected Ravana as the hero, asserted the superiority of Tamil as an ancient and living language and Dalitbahujans as its principal constituency. Dravidian Hinduism also floated Kimayana to counter Ramayana, the epic of Aryan Hinduism. The recent controversy regarding the Sanskrit drama project indicates that the tension between the two Hinduisms still exists.

in a certain sense the rupture between the two traditions and the absorption of a new concept in the beginning of the 1960s in the Indian tradition of the 1950s. The idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. The idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. In the 1960s, the idea of the "new tradition" was not a rupture, but a continuation. Of the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s, the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Since the 1960s, the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Well, when we look at the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s, the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. The specific Indian pattern of the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Bhumi and the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Gal, Tamir, and the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Symbiotic pattern in the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Of the term "new tradition" in the 1960s, the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. Leftist parties in India, the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. And they used to be in the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. International state, the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation. In vein, A.R. Desai refers to the idea of the "new tradition" in the 1960s was not a rupture, but a continuation.

The Biggest Gathering of Women

It is only for women. 'Attukal Pongala', is a religious festival in Thiruvananthapuram, where the world's biggest gathering of women takes place every year.

guaranteed freedom of religion.

The second example I have in mind is the definition of 'Hindu' in the Hindu Code Bill, which includes all the religions of Indic origin. Thus, Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs are all 'Hindus', exactly the same conceptualization that Savarkar proposed which I noted earlier. Thus viewed, cultural monism is widely endorsed in India and we cannot indict the Sangh Parivar as the sole advocate of this perspective. Needless to say, there is a wide range within the cultural monist perspective and the Sangh Parivar occupies the extreme fringe of it.

Cultural Pluralism

The competing conceptualization of India, against cultural monism is cultural pluralism. The political party, which champions this perspective is the Indian National Congress. The cultural monists believe that the Indian nation is a victim of centuries of incursions by Muslim conquerors and Western Christian colonizers whose cultures remain alien accretions in India. In contrast, the cultural pluralists hold the view that Indian society is a product of gradual and continuous accretion of cultural elements from Ancient, Medieval and Modern times, all of which made significant contributions which need to be acknowledged. Celebration of cultural diversity is the motto of cultural pluralism.

It is useful to recall here the long presence of multiple socio-cultural forces, which have contributed to the social formation of India. The more important of these are: the primal vision of the adivasis of India, the pre-Aryan Dravidian presence, the Aryan advent, the emergence of the Indian protestant religions such as Jainism

and Buddhism, arrival of non-Indic pre-colonial and pre-conquest religions—Christianity and Islam, Muslim conquests which began in the eighth century, the Bhakti movements which crystallized in the medieval period, western colonialism, emergence of Sikhism, arrival of religions such as Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Baha'is Faith, the anti-colonial movement and the partition of India. Admittedly, some of these have had a greater impact in shaping the texture of Indian Society.

To nurture and preserve the notion of cultural pluralism ideas such as 'unity in diversity' and 'composite culture' have been floated. The first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, played a leading role in this endeavour. Viewed retrospectively, it seems to me that these ideas were invoked to avert partition and to accommodate the two competing Great Traditions of pre-independent India, Hinduism and Islam. And yet, the advocacy did not succeed because of the Muslim fear of a Hindu dominated free India. In 1940 M.A. Jinnah observed: 'The history of 1200 years has failed to achieve unity and has witnessed, during the ages, India always divided into Hindu India and Muslim India'.

Fusion Between Cultures

Cultural pluralists endorsed the notions of unity in diversity and composite culture. For example, political scientist, Beniprasad, argued that there occurred a fusion between Hindu and Muslim cultures and societies. He wrote in 1941: 'As soon as the first wave of conquest, plunder and desecration had spent themselves, there began the operation of the forces, inherent in human nature, which inter-knit contacts

Nomophobia

A new item has been added to the stress list of modern life—nomophobia, the fear of being out of mobile phone contact. Running out of battery or credit, losing one's handset and not having network coverage affects 53 per cent of mobile users, reveals a British study.

deralism—none of which specifically addresses their unique deprivation. A cultural balternist perspective attempts to fill this gap. Representatives of Dalitbahujan intellectuals suggest that caste-Hindu social scientists misrepresent the empirical reality about them.

It is necessary to note here that even the Scheduled Tribes are different from the Scheduled Castes, the Dalits. The tribes have their exclusive homelands although because of intrusions by non-tribals they have been dominated by the people from the plains, except in the Northeast. But after the creation of provincial states in Central India—Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand—populated predominantly by tribal people, they are gaining in political authority and facilitated in nurturing their cultural identity. In the case of Scheduled Castes such a prospect does not exist because they are territorially dispersed.

Nation-State

Let me conclude by noting that India cannot ever become a nation-state, in the classic western European sense, which pursued cultural homogenisation as its avowed goal. In fact, the failure of 'project homogenisation' in Europe partly prompted the creation of European Union. The Union of Indian States is four times bigger than the European Union in population size and infinitely more complex culturally. The experiment of the socialist states to establish multi-national states came to grief and broke up because of Great Nation chauvinism. If India is to learn from its own history and the experience of contemporary politics it cannot and should not pursue the goal of cultural

homogenization. Instead, *India should be conceptualized as a national state which consciously pursues cultural plurolism*. And for cultural pluralism to flower one should accept the notion of cultural federalism which address the issues of equality and identity simultaneously. That is, political federalism and cultural pluralism are two sides of the same coin.

Two cautions are necessary to achieve this objective. One, cultural diversity should not be mistaken for cultural relativism, which insists on cultural purity and is prone to undemocratic practices. All societies have their cultural assets and liabilities. India should identify its assets and nurture them as well as locate its liabilities and abandon them. That is, selective retention and selective rejection of its tradition is an imperative.

Two, while endorsing cultural diversity it should be recognized that diversity is a fact and pluralism is a value orientation to that fact. In India cultural diversity has been in existence for centuries but coupled with institutionalised inequality manifested in the caste system sanctioned by religion. This is a deadly combination. We need to combine diversity with equality. To put it pithily, the simultaneous recognition of equality and identity is a pre-requisite to create a modern democratic society in contemporary India.

The first step in this context is to attempt an appropriate conceptualization of the entity called India. Unfortunately Indian intellectuals in general and social scientists in particular have not yet addressed this problem seriously. We can postpone this task only at our own peril.

Shark International

A study by Stanford University says great white sharks hold 'annual meetings'. They congregate in thousands deep under the sea.

'weakened' nationalities in India and those nationalities moving from the dormant to weakened stage in his *Social Background of Indian Nationalism*, not an acceptable idea to those nationalities labeled as 'dormant and weakened'.

Provincial State Formation

The commission appointed for the linguistic re-organization of India submitted its report in 1956 and recommended the formation of 14 States and five Union Territories (UTs). But the process of provincial state formation remains an unfinished task; between 1960 and 1987, 15 new states and UTs were formed. In 2001 three more states were formed and at present there are a dozen pending demands for the formation of provincial states and UTs. All the pending demands are not based exclusively on the linguistic criterion but often based on a mixture of language/dialect and regional underdevelopment. The tensions between the Centre and the States as well the States and the regions within them are manifestations of the same issue. Cultural federalism thus emphasizes not only the need for equity between linguistic and dialectal communities but also gives adequate importance to the maintenance of their specific identity.

However, ensuring equality and identity to cultural communities does not squarely address the specific problems of the traditionally deprived in India. This gives birth to the fourth perspective which I designate as 'cultural subalternism'. Given the fact that access to knowledge was denied to the Dalitbahujans—Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and those who converted to Bud-

dism, Christianity and Islam from these categories—the emergence of an intelligentsia from among them was rather muted. Caste hierarchy was based on 'an ascending scale of reverence/hatred and a descending order of contempt,' to recall the pregnant words of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It is true early to say as to whether the idea of Sarvajan Samaj and the strategy of Brahmin-jodo campaign are passing political facts floated for electoral benefit or indicative of a change in perspective to re-conceptualize India.

Social Trends

Thanks to the policy of reservation and some other measures the following social trends are gradually surfacing:

Cumulative domination, the characteristic feature of India's traditional social order, is being replaced by dispersed domination. In the emerging social order no social category can exercise decisive dominance in all contexts—economic, political, cultural and social—simultaneously.

Traditional hierarchy and its values are gradually yielding space to modern equality; at any rate equality is widely endorsed as a desirable value.

Simultaneous assertions of equality and identity by Dalitbahujans; earlier they were inclined to have a trade off for equality abandoning identity.

These social transformations have thrown up an intellectual elite from among the Dalitbahujans who have started interrogating the knowledge produced by the Caste-Hindu intellectuals and their conceptualizations of India—cultural monism, cultural pluralism and cultural

Don't Trust Good-Looking Men

A survey conducted by a public relations firm in Canada and the US has found that average-looking men with good manners are among the most trusted. Good-looking men are trusted the least, it says.

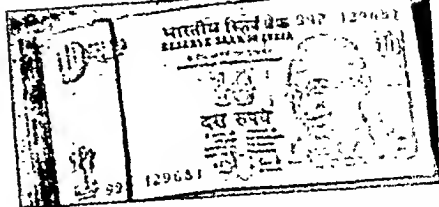
Education: A Chronological Chart

- 1792** – Sanskrit College at Banaras
- 1800** – Fort Williams College at Kolkata
- 1817** January 20 - Raja Rammohan Roy established the Hindu College, in Kolkata (re-named Presidency College in 1855)
- 1821** – Poona Sanskrit College
- 1824** - Sanskrit College at Kolkata
- 1826** – Governor of Madras established two schools in each collectorate and one school in each Tahsil
- 1834** - Basel Mission at Mangalore.
- 1835** February 02 – Macaulay's minute, in which he anticipated 'a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect.'
- 1835** – Calcutta Medical College, the first Medical College in India (also in Asia)
- 1844** – Lord Harding established 101 'vernacular' schools in Bengal
- 1847** - Roorkee Engineering College, the first Engineering college in India
- 1854** - 'Wood's Despatch' - survey and suggestions for reforms; creation of Department of Public Instruction in each province.
- 1857** – Establishment of universities at Kolkata, Mumbai, and Chennai (Calcutta, Bombay and Madras)
- 1882** - Hunter Commission on education (responsibility of mass education shifted from Government to local boards / private sector; grant-in-aid system)
- 1882** – Punjab University
- 1887** – Allahabad University
- 1904** – Five Universities, 191 affiliated colleges, 23,000 students; 5498 secondary schools with 5.6 lakhs students, 98,538 primary schools with 33 lakhs students; special / industrial / technical / art / training schools.
- 1948** – Radhakrishnan Commission for university education – suggested 10 + 2 structure, three languages, scholarships & research.
- 1950** – Free and compulsory education enshrined as one of the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of the Indian Republic.
- 1951** - First Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) established at Kharagpur
- 1952** – Mudaliar Commission on secondary education
- 1956** - University Grants Commission (UGC) established by Act of Parliament
- 1961** - Dr. Sampurnanand Committee on Emotional Integration
- 1964** – Kothari Commission on education at all stages.
- 1976** – Education changed from State list to Concurrent list in the Constitution.
- 1986** – New National Policy of Education
- 1988** -All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) with statutory status; National Literacy Mission launched
- 1993** - National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE)
- 2002** - Constitution amended to make free and compulsory education, a Fundamental Right
- 2004** - EDUSAT, a satellite dedicated to education, launched
- 2008** - Decision to set up eight new IITs.

ucts in investment banking and do
e of private banking to earn more fee-
d income. Banks have also tied up with
ranchise companies and mutual funds to
r an array of financial products to their
nts, again to enhance the fee-based
ome in a bid to protect Net Interest
argins (NIMs). Private Banking and
alth Management give in-person bank-
services to the client at his door-step,
hile keeping strict secrecy of his accounts.
aturally, this requires highly knowledge-
le and skilled banking personnel, who
e good at both banking and marketing,
art from having good inter-personal skills
nd knowledge of world markets to take
dvantage of tax optimization through
ross border transactions.

Reserve Bank of India has come up
with a road map for further deregulation
of the Indian banking sector. The regula-
tory restrictions on branch opening and
acquisitions by MNC banks will be lifted
in 2009. After March 2009, foreign banks
will be allowed to set up branches and
take over weak banks with an investment
up to 74%.

As the world is dominated by big-
sized banks, the Government of India
is in favour of mergers and acquisitions
of banks in India so as to have 5-6 large
size banks strong enough to compete
internationally, with large amount of as-
sets matching the international biggies.
Moody's also feels that the large number
of banks in India should get reduced with
M&As. Such measures would reduce
the operating costs and make the banks
more competitive internationally. Opera-
tional efficiency also has to be improved to
match that of international competition.



Hence many banks are already in a state
of transformation, with Business Process
Re-engineering.

The new Accounting Standards for
Financial Instruments (disclosures under
AS 32) has received the nod of ICAI, and
is likely to be implemented from April 1,
2009. It will also be made mandatory from
April 1, 2011. This would ensure proper
disclosures in the financial statements of
banks, including in particular Off Balance
Sheet exposures, to enable users to better
understand the risks carried by the entity,
and how it manages them.

With the influx of technology in bank-
ing, the role of staff has changed from
accounting to marketing, apart from
requiring specialized skills like I.T., Corpo-
rate Credit, and innovative retail product
development skills. Gen-next should now
gear up and acquire such skills. Then they
will have a very challenging and interest-
ing career ahead in banking. They would
require to hone their hard and soft skills.

Banking nowadays requires knowledge
of specialized areas like various cultures
courtesies, laws of various countries, etc.
Thus the traditional banking of lending
and borrowing money has changed pre-
nomentially in the recent past to throw up
many challenges to the new generation.
It is now a dynamic industry requiring a
combination of expertise of various areas
of science and art.

The First Corporation

Damodar Valley Corporation is the first public corporation of India, formed in July
1948. Damodar Valley Project is a multipurpose project for the control and develop-
ment of irrigation, flood control and power generation in West Bengal and Bihar.

multi-currency options have become the norm for the smart traveler.

Banks are being strengthened with stricter norms of adequate capital requirement, where Basel II norms have emphasized on ability of a bank to fight all types of risks, including the much important Reputational Risk and Operational Risk unlike the earlier Basel I norms. This is expected to ensure only a very rare instance of a big bank collapse in future, even during highly fluctuating economic cycles of growth and stagnation. Reserve Bank of India has ensured compliance of basic Basel II norms for all the banks, and some banks are also planning to move to advanced norms to become more competitive.

Expansion of banking facilities on such vast scale can also help certain illegal activities like money laundering, terrorism finance, drug trafficking, etc. Therefore, many countries including India have enforced strict 'Know Your Customer'(KYC) norms and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) norms whereby a continuous check on large transactions is ensured and new customers are monitored strictly with proper identity and address proof. Sniffing software is being installed at all central servers to add muscle to this objective. Such transactions are expected to be reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) periodically.

Asset Quality of the Banks in India has vastly improved following the passing of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interests (SARFAESI) Act in 2002. Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) have also taken up the Bank-related claim

cases through the separate channel and helped banks shed a large proportion of non-performing assets. In fact recovery of stressed assets has become a profit centre operation.

Exotic Products

The influx of complex financial instruments (Exotic Products) in international markets has led to fantasizing products in derivatives (secondary instrument based on primary lending at grass root level). USA has been in the forefront of innovative derivative instruments. Added to this, bundling of sub-prime housing loans given to the poor and normal housing loans given to deserving home-loan buyers in one derivatives package led to inferior quality derivative instruments. As rating agencies for sale of secondary instruments are always paid by the seller or packager, such instruments had a higher rating due to optimistic outlook of the economy held by both the ratee and the issuer. Such over-optimism led to a sudden slump in real estate prices in USA and affected many banks and financial companies both in USA and Europe. The damage due to sub-prime crisis is less in India and China, as very few banks had purchased such over-rated instruments. Goldman Sachs, the premier investment banking company of USA, has been the only one to escape any losses due to the sub-prime crisis in USA.

There are many challenges for banking industry in India in the coming decade. It has to fight the technology frauds while popularizing the e-products and give more comfortable banking to their vast clientele. It has to design premium

Investment Commission

The Investment Commission, set up in 2004, observed in 2006, that for sustaining growth at over 8 p.c. a year, an increase in investment levels in the economy to about 32% of the GDP will be required.

ent investors. It launched ULIP in 1981, six more schemes between 1981-Children's Gift Growth Fund and India d (India's first offshore fund) in 1986, tershare (India's first equity diversified eme) in 1987 and Monthly Income emes (offering assured returns) during 90s. By the end of 1987, UTI's assets der management grew ten times to 6,700 crores.

The Indian mutual fund industry witnessed a number of public sector players entering the market in the year 1987. In November 1987, SBI Mutual Fund from the State Bank of India became the first non-UTI mutual fund in India. SBI Mutual Fund was later followed by Canbank Mutual Fund, LIC Mutual Fund, Indian Bank Mutual Fund, Bank of India Mutual fund, GIC Mutual Fund and PNB Mutual Fund. By 1993, the assets under management of the industry increased seven times to Rs. 47,004 crores. However, UTI remained to be the leader with about 80% market share.

The permission given to private sector funds including foreign fund management companies (most of them entering through joint ventures with Indian promoters) to enter the mutual fund industry in 1993, provided a wide range of choice of investors and more competition in the industry. Private funds introduced innovative products, investment techniques and investor-servicing technology. By 1994-95, about 11 private sector funds had launched their schemes.

The mutual fund industry witnessed robust growth and stricter regulation from the SEBI after the year 1996. The mobilisation of funds and the number of

players operating in the industry reached new heights as investors started showing more interest in mutual funds.

Investors' interest was also encouraged by SEBI and the Government offered tax benefits to the investors in order to encourage them. SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 was introduced by SEBI that set uniform standards for all mutual funds in India. The Union Budget in 1999 exempted all dividend incomes in the hands of investors from income tax. Various Investor Awareness Programmes were launched during this phase. Both by SEBI and AMFI, with an objective to educate investors and make them informed about the mutual fund industry.

In February 2003, the UTI Act was repealed and UTI was stripped of its special legal status as a trust formed by an Act of Parliament. The primary objective behind this was to bring all mutual fund players on the same level. UTI was re-organized into two parts: 1. The Specified Undertaking, 2. The UTI Mutual Fund.

Presently Unit Trust of India operates under the name of UTI Mutual Fund and its past schemes (like US-64, Assured Return Schemes) are being gradually wound up. In 1999, there was a significant growth in mobilisation of funds from investors and assets under management.

The industry has also witnessed several mergers and acquisitions recently, examples of which are acquisition of schemes of Alliance Mutual Fund by Birla Sun Life, Sun F&C Mutual Fund and PNB Mutual Fund by Principal Mutual Fund. Simultaneously, more international mutual fund players have entered India like Fidelity,

The First Stock Exchange

The Bombay Stock Exchange was established in 1875. It is the oldest in Asia. 318 persons became members upon paying Rs.1. The second biggest Asian exchange

Securities Market

The Indian Securities Market dates back to the 18th century when the securities of the East India Company were traded in Mumbai and Kolkata. However, the orderly growth of the capital market began with the setting up of the Stock Exchange, Mumbai, in July 1875 and Ahmedabad Stock Exchange in 1894 and 22 other exchanges in various cities over the years.

The Indian capital market attained further depth and width in business transacted during 2007. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Sensex, which had been witnessing an upswing since the latter part of 2003, scaled a high of 20,000 mark at the close of calendar year 2007. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) index rose in tandem to close above the 10,000 mark at the end of 2007. Both the indices more than tripled between 2003 and 2007, giving handsome yearly

returns. Alongside the growth of business in the Indian capital market, the regulatory and oversight norms have improved over the years, ensuring a sound and stable market.

The primary capital market grew in 2006 and 2007 after the setback of 2005. The amounts raised and the number of new issues which entered the market increased in 2007. The total amount of capital raised through different market instruments during 2007 was 31.5 per cent higher than during 2006, which itself had seen a rebound of 30.6 per cent over the lows of 2005.

The Sensex had a very rollercoaster ride during 2008. It hit an intra day low of 12822.70 on July 2, 2008. This is the lowest that it has ever been in the past year. Barely six months ago, on January 10, 2008, the market had hit an all time high of 21206.70.

Mutual Fund Industry

The formation of Unit Trust of India marked the evolution of the Indian mutual fund industry in the year 1963. The primary objective at that time was to attract the small investors and it was made possible through the collective efforts of the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

Unit Trust of India enjoyed complete monopoly when it was established in the year 1963 by an act of Parliament. UTI was set up by the Reserve Bank of India and

it continued to operate under the regulatory control of the RBI until the two were de-linked in 1978 and the entire control was transferred in the hands of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). UTI launched its first scheme in 1964, named as Unit Schemes 1964 (US-64), which attracted the largest number of investors in any single investment scheme over the years.

UTI launched more innovative schemes in 1970s and 80s to suit the needs of

mercantile Insurance Ltd., was set up. This was the first company to transact all classes of general insurance business.

The year 1957 saw the formation of the General Insurance Council, a wing of the Insurance Association of India. The General Insurance Council framed a code of conduct for ensuring fair conduct and sound business practices.

In 1968, the Insurance Act was amended to regulate investments and set minimum solvency margins. The Tariff Advisory Committee was also set up then.

In 1972 with the passing of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, general insurance business was nationalized with effect from 1st January, 1973. 107 insurers were amalgamated and grouped into four companies, namely National Insurance Co. Ltd., the New India Assurance Co. Ltd., the Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and the United India Insurance Co. Ltd. The General Insurance Corporation of India was incorporated as a company in 1971 and it commenced business on January 1st 1973.

This millennium has seen insurance come a full circle in a journey extending to nearly 200 years. The process of re-opening of the sector had begun in the early 1990s and the last decade and more has seen it being opened up substantially. In 1993, the Government set up a committee under the chairmanship of RN Malhotra, former Governor of RBI, to propose recommendations for reforms in the insurance sector. The objective was to complement the reforms initiated in the financial sector. The committee submitted its report in 1994 wherein, among other things, it recommended that the private

sector be permitted to enter the insurance industry. They stated the foreign companies be allowed to enter by floating Indian companies, preferably a joint venture with India partners.

Following the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee report, in 1999, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was constituted as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry. The IRDA was incorporated as a statutory body in April, 2000. The key objectives of the IRDA include promotion of competition so as to enhance customer satisfaction through increased consumer choice and lower premiums, while ensuring the financial security of the insurance market.

The IRDA opened up the market in August 2000 with the invitation for application for registrations. Foreign companies were allowed ownership of up to 26%. The Authority has the power to frame regulations under Section 114A of the Insurance Act, 1938 and has from 2000 onwards framed various regulations ranging from registration of companies for carrying on insurance business to protection of policyholders' interests.

In December, 2000, the subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India were restructured as independent companies and at the same time GIC was converted into a national reinsurer. Parliament passed a bill de-linking the four subsidiaries from GIC in July, 2002.

Today there are 14 general insurance companies including the ECGC and Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India and 14 life insurance companies operating in the country.

A Bad Omen

A bronze bull installed outside the Bombay Stock Exchange in January 1991 became controversial with a section of city-based firms fearing a bad omen.

Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund etc. The combined average assets under management (AUM) of the 34 fund houses in the was Rs.5,29,629,46 crore in July, 2008.

This is a continuing phase of growth of the industry through consolidation and entry of new international and private sector players.

Insurance

In India, insurance has a deep-rooted history. The year 1818 saw the advent of life insurance business in India with the establishment of the Oriental Life Insurance Company in Calcutta. This Company however failed in 1834. In 1829, the Madras Equitable had begun transacting life insurance business in the Madras Presidency. The year 1870 saw the enactment of the British Insurance Act and in the last three decades of the nineteenth century, the Bombay Mutual (1871), Oriental (1874) and Empire of India (1897) were started in the Bombay Residency. This era, however, was dominated by foreign insurance offices which did good business in India, namely Albert Life Assurance, Royal Insurance, Liverpool and London Globe Insurance and the Indian offices were up for hard competition from the foreign companies.

In 1914, the Government of India started publishing returns of Insurance Companies in India. The Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912 was the first statutory measure to regulate life business. In 1928, the Indian Insurance Companies Act was enacted to enable the Government to collect statistical information about both life and non-life business

transacted in India by Indian and foreign insurers including provident insurance societies. In 1938, with a view to protecting the interest of the Insurance public, the earlier legislation was consolidated and amended by the Insurance Act, 1938 with comprehensive provisions for effective control over the activities of insurers.

The Insurance Amendment Act of 1950 abolished Principal Agencies. However, there were a large number of insurance companies and the level of competition was high. There were also allegation of unfair trade practices. The Government of India, therefore, decided to nationalize insurance business.

An ordinance was issued on 19th January, 1956 nationalising the Life Insurance sector and Life Insurance Corporation came into existence in the same year. The LIC absorbed 154 Indian, 16 non-Indian insurers as also 75 provident societies - 245 Indian and foreign insurers in all. The LIC had monopoly till the late 90s when the Insurance sector was reopened to the private sector.

General Insurance in India has its roots in the establishment of Triton Insurance Company Ltd., in the year 1850 in Calcutta by the British. In 1907, the Indian

The First Insurance Companies

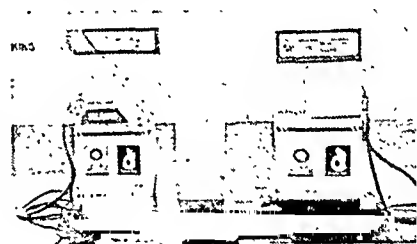
The Calcutta Insurance Company was set up in 1798. It was exclusively for Europeans. The Bombay Mutual Life Assurance Society formed in 1870 insured Indians at the same rate as Europeans.

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) viz. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Nigeria, Qatar and UAE, not to increase oil production aiming to get the gains of high prices. Thirdly, political factors like American invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the consequent political instability and uncertainty created in the Middle East oil producing countries. It is reported that due to Iraq invasion in 2003, oil production of Iraq declined to more than two to three million barrels per day. Fourthly the emergence of terrorist groups targeting oil and gas installations in African, Asian countries also curtailed production and free transport of oil.

The unprecedented hike in oil prices has created acute shortage of fuel in many fronts, curtailed the production of goods and services, enhanced the transportation cost, increased the general price level and caused severe economic problems in developed and developing countries. The increase in crude oil prices usually adversely affects prices of primary commodities such as fertilizers and fuel, all modes of transport, commodities using energy-intensive production process, products which are substitutes of crude oil, other sources of energy like coal, electricity and gas. The additional foreign exchange needed to finance the import of oil due to price hike has created very severe balance of payment problems to the developing countries. Due to the spurt in oil prices, all those countries which do not have oil resources and rely on oil exports are facing acute balance of payment problems.

Oil Price Hike in India

In India, the entire magnitude of the increase in world oil prices is not transmitted to the consumers; the price of the petroleum products prevailing in India is not a market determined one. India has a system of administered prices and the petroleum products are distributed by public sector oil companies at the price fixed by the government. According to the Ministry of Petroleum, Government of India, based on the world oil prices prevailed in June 2008, the total 1085 (under recoveries) of public sector oil marketing companies was Rs. 245,300 crores for the year 2008-09. It is estimated by the Ministry that the public sector oil marketing companies were losing Rs. 14 a litre on petrol, Rs. 21 on a litre on diesel, Rs. 28.72 on a litre of kerosene and Rs. 30 on a cylinder of cooking gas.



In this context, the Government of India enhanced the price of diesel by Rs. 3 per litre, petrol by Rs. 5 per litre and LPG Rs. 50 per cylinder on 5th July 2008. The rate of increase announced for petrol, diesel and LPG was about 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 17 per cent respectively (Table 1). It is estimated that the increase in the price will enable public sector companies to earn an amount of Rs. 21123 crore

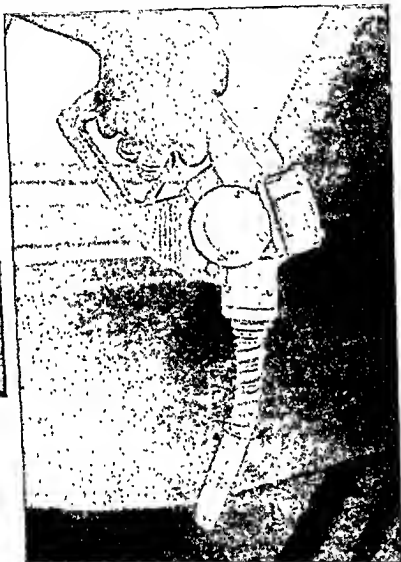
Employee Frauds

According to a survey by India Forensic Research, India might be losing as much as \$40 b. annually due to frauds committed by employees. Banking sector is the most affected by such frauds. It said 17 to 23 per cent of the employees in the banking sector are involved in frauds.

World Oil Price and Its Impact On India

Dr. B.A. Prakash

In recent years, there has been an unprecedented increase in the price of oil in the international market. The spurt in the price of crude oil and petroleum products has created acute economic



problems in most of the countries both developed and undeveloped. This article examines the trends in world oil prices, causes for the spurt in oil prices and the oil price situation in India.

Trends in World Oil Prices

The price of a barrel of crude in the New

York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), a major international market for oil, was around \$ 25 during the year 1985. By 2004, the price shot up to a range between \$ 40 and \$ 50 per barrel. During 2005, the price further increased to a range between \$ 60 and \$ 70 per barrel. During the period of one year ending May 2008, the price of crude had appreciated by over 100 per cent. By June 27, the price of crude touched an all-time high of \$ 141.72 per barrel for the delivery in August (Table 1). Some people speculate that the price may reach \$ 170 per barrel very soon.

In economic terms, the spurt in oil prices may be explained as a situation of supply and demand mismatch. On the one hand, there has been a slow growth in supply due to economic, social, political and international factors. On the other hand, there has been unprecedented growth in demand for oil due to rapid development that has been taking place in developed as well as under developed economies.

In the supply front, a host of unfavourable factors contribute to the slow-down of the supply of oil. The major economic factors are decline in the discovery of new oil-fields, fall in global oil production, fall in underground oil reserves due to rapid extraction of oil, technical difficulties to extract remaining reserves etc. Secondly the deliberate policy

Banks Named after Rivers

Bhagirath, Ganga-Yamuna, Gomti, Hindon, Jamuna, Sarayu and Alaknanda are rivers in the north after which grameena banks have been named.

el (In Rs./Litre)				9.43
i	31.80	34.80	3.00	9.45
ata	33.96	37.17	3.21	9.47
mbai	36.12	39.54	3.42	9.55
ennai	34.44	37.73	3.29	
G (In Rs. /14.2 kg cylinder)				16.96
hi	294.75	344.75	50	16.63
lkata	300.50	350.50	50	16.77
umbai	298.00	348.00	50	17.35
ennai	288.10	338.10	50	

Table 3

Economic Liability of Public Sector Companies due to Increase in International Oil Price for 2008 - 09

Item	Rs. Crore
1. Price Increase on June 5, 2008	21,123
2. Cut in excise and custom duties	22,660
3. Oil marketing companies contribution	65,000
4. Oil Bonds to be issued	94,600
5. Uncovered gap	41,917
6. Total under recoveries	2,45,300

Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) Focus

Income & Poverty

- Accelerate growth rate of GDP from 8% to 10% and then maintain at 10% in the 12th Plan in order to double per capita income by 2016-17
- Increase agricultural GDP growth rate to 4% per year to ensure a broader spread of benefits
- Create 70 million new work opportunities.
- Reduce educated unemployment to below 5%.
- Raise real wage rate of unskilled workers by 20 percent.
- Reduce the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points.

and by regular testing monitor effectiveness of education to ensure quality.

- Increase literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or more to 85%.
- Lower gender gap in literacy to 10 percentage points.
- Increase the percentage of school going to higher education from the present 10% to 15% by the end of the 11th Plan.

Health

- Reduce infant mortality rate and and maternal mortality rate to 100 per 1000 live births
- Reduce Total Fertility Rate to 2
- Provide clean drinking water

(Table 3). Along with this the government announced a five per cent cut in customs duty on crude, petrol and diesel. Besides this, the excise duty on petrol and diesel was reduced by Re 1 per litre. It is estimated that the reduction in the above duties will result in a revenue loss of Rs. 22,660 crore to the government in 2008-09. The other ways by which the government shifted the additional burden were reduction in the margins and profits of oil marketing companies (Rs. 65,000 crore) and raising public loans through oil bonds (Rs. 94,600). Shifting only a small portion of the financial burden arising out of oil price hike to actual consumers' end. Transferring the major burden to public borrowing is not a sound economic policy.

The spurt in oil prices has created very severe consequences to the Indian economy. First, it enhanced the cost of all modes of transport such as road,

rail, water and air transport. Second, it has arrested the growth in automobile industry and air transport services and created a recession in transport and energy sectors. Third, it has pushed up the inflation rate to double digit levels. Immediately after the oil price hike in India on 5th June 2008, the inflation rate reached 1.42 per cent during the week ended 14th June 2008. Fourth, the price hike has created a situation of stagflation where the economy persistently suffers from both high inflation and high unemployment. The latest data suggest that the growth rate for 2008-09 will be much lower than the 9 per cent achieved in the previous year. Fifth, the spurt in the prices of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) requiring additional amount of foreign exchange has worsened the trade balance of payment situation. The POL accounts for about one- third of the total value of imports in India.

Table 1

International crude oil prices in NewYork Mercantile Exchange

Month & Year	Month's Highest Price (\$ per barrel)	Growth (percent)
May 2007	61.55	-
January 2008	99.98	62.43
February 2008	103.05	3.07
March 2008	110.17	6.90
April 2008	119.93	8.85
May 2008	135.09	12.64
June 2008	141.71	4.90

Table 2

Increase in Petroleum Products in India (from June 5, 2008)

	Existing Price	New Price	Increase	Increase (Per cent)
Petrol (In Rs./litre)				
Delhi	45.56	50.56	5.00	10.97
Kolkata	48.98	54.29	5.31	10.84
Mumbai	50.54	55.88	5.34	10.5
Chennai	49.64	55.07	5.43	10.93

Times of Siege, Shashi Deshpande's *Small Remedies*, Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe*, C.R. Usha's *A Girl and a River*, and some other novels, most of which are located in specific regions, languages and cultures. In fact, it seems to be a rich period for IWE today. An encouraging sign is that other genres are slowly creeping in. Kalpana Swaminathan has come out with mystery novels, a genre which has never taken off in IWE. Ashok Banker embarked on a massive job of a retelling of the Ramayana. Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* and *One Night @ the Call Centre* have been a great success among young readers, while Samit Basu has brought graphic novels into IWE. These, however, are small gains. The really successful genre at this point is non-fiction. The books of Amartya Sen, William Dalrymple, Ramachandra Guha, Sunil Khilnani, and Suketu Mehta have been on the best-selling lists much more than fiction has. Some fiction writers have also turned to non-fiction, like Vikram Seth, with his latest *Two Lives*, Shashi Tharoor, Amit Chaudhuri, Shobha De etc. In fact, the predominance of the novel in IWE seems threatened by the success of non-fiction.

Poetry

There are many failures as well. Poetry, which had such a flying start in the post-independence years, with poets of the stature of Nissim Ezekiel, A.K. Ramanijan, Kamala Das, Arun Kolatkar, Jayant Mahapatra, Keki Daruwala, Dom Moraes and many others, flagged, not from a paucity of good poets - a new generation of interesting poets like Ranjit Hoskote, Rukmini Bhaya Nair, Imtiaz Dharker,

Agha Shahid Ali emerged - but because of the reluctance of publishers to publish poetry. Amazingly, poetry has kept itself alive through small publishers, self-publishing, dedicated journals and the web. Children's literature, too, has not made much headway, except for Ruskin Bond. IWE does not have children's writers with a substantial body of writing.

On the whole, it is a confused picture. In spite of the aura of success surrounding IWE, there are not many young writers with staying power and very few exciting new books. Much-hyped books, whose main qualification seems to be the amount of advance they have received, often sink without a trace. The problem is that, even if it no longer matters where an author lives, being published abroad still makes a huge difference. But the demands of Western publishers about what an 'Indian novel' should be like, puts a certain pressure on writers while also making many Indian readers unresponsive to these books. Though there is much heartburning about the high visibility of books published in the West, the real danger is of young writers in search of success succumbing to the demands of publishers and the market, which could warp their originality and creativity. Indian publishers, who were able to provide a healthy balance, have now entered the world of big money; the only criterion for publishing is whether a book will sell. A reluctance to take risks means that literary fiction, poetry, in fact any experimentation, will fall by the wayside. Which is not the sign of a healthy literature.

Indian English Novel

Mulkraj Anand, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao were three senior writers who began to write in the early thirties. Anand's major novels were *Coolie* (1933) and *Untouchable* (1935). R.K. Narayan's major novels were *The God of Small Things* (1957) and *The English Teacher* (1961).

Indian Writing in English - the Contemporary Scene

Shashi Deshpande

A very significant change that has taken place in Indian Writing in English (IWE) during the last twenty-five years is that it seems to have finally found its place within Indian literature. What is more noticed, however, is its visibility outside the country, a process which began with Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* in the early eighties. Though earlier writers like R.K.Narayan, Raja Rao, Mulkraj Anand and, later, Anita Desai and Nayantara Sehgal were known internationally, Rushdie's book and its Booker Prize brought IWE into the limelight; it was no longer a modest side show. In a few years there was a small but select body of Indian writers who were well known internationally: Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, Amit Chaudhuri, Shashi Tharoor, Rohinton Mistry, Bharati Mukherjee etc. Vikram's Seth's *A Suitable Boy* was the next landmark in IWE, for its scope and narrative style, as well as the promotion of the novel - unknown in IWE until then. The enormous success of Arundhati Roy's *God of Small Things* gave a greater fillip to IWE and set the trend of first novels getting huge advances. The novels of Rajkamal Jha, Ruchir Joshi, David Davidar and later Pankaj Mishra, Tarun Tejpal and Lavanya Sankaran set new standards for IWE in terms of money and promotion.

Growing Readership

Running on parallel lines was another

kind of writing in IWE, which, though overshadowed by this flamboyant international success, was yet making its presence felt within the country. Writers living and published in India were steadily garnering a growing readership. Books like Kiran Nagarkar's *Ravan* and *Eddie and the Cuckold*, Allan Sealy's *Trotter Nama*, Githa Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces of Night*, Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence* and *The Dark Holds no Terrors*, Upamanyu Chatterji's *English, August* (which became a cult book) found a favourable readership. Manju Kapur, Anita Nair, Jaishree Mishra, K.R.Usha, Kavery Nambisan are also well-known in India for their work. Though the Pulitzer Prize for Jhumpa Lahiri and more recently the Booker for Kiran Desai, both living outside India, once again brought the immigrant's issue to the forefront, the lines between diasporic writers, writers living outside India and those living within, are getting blurred in IWE. And so, if there have been big books like Vikram Chandra's *Sacred Games*, about the Bombay underworld, and Kiran Nagarkar's *God's Little Soldier*, about terrorism, *Shantaram*, by Gregor David Roberts, an Australian, has been one of the biggest successes in India. And if Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace* and *The Hungry Tide* were acclaimed, both within and outside India, Indian readers have also appreciated Amit Chaudhuri's *A New World*, Githa Hariharan's *I*

Extraordinary Writers

- The extraordinary girl Toru Dutt (1855-76) who died at 21 is remembered for the poems she wrote in English. Dom Moraes won the prestigious Hawththornden Prize for 'A Beginning' which he wrote as a 19-year-old under-graduate of Oxford.

Theatre, like any other living art form, is a changing phenomenon. Indian theatre has a distinct identity with its innovative creativity, which is still relevant. Since time immemorial, there has been some kind of theatrical expressions that had undergone wide-ranging changes during the last two to three thousand years. Even today, many tribes in different parts of our country perform rituals related to birth, death, marriage, hunting, and propitiations of gods, in which the theatrical elements are prominent. There are references to drama, dances, musicians and actors (Kusha – Lavas) etc. in Valmiki Ramayana, dance and drama in Mahabharata, Harivamsha Purana, Bhagvata Purana, Markandeya Purana etc.

Natyashastra

In Panini's well-known work, Ashtadhyayi (4th century B.C.) there are mentions of dramatic performances. Patanjali's commentary on this work describes the conditions of the families of theatre practitioners. Kautilya's Arthashastra also has references to performances and people who made their living from theatre. All theoretical and practical aspects of theatrical art, could find expression in Natyashastra of Bharata Muni. Treated as a well-structured treatise, Natyashastra remains as fundamental principles about theatre, music, dance and poetry. The origin of Natya is explained through a

myth in Natyashastra, which is created by God Brahma himself as Fifth Veda for promoting self-restraint, discipline, wisdom, etc. among people through different situations of laughter, fight, lovemaking etc.

Finally Sanskrit theatre was formulated that depicted different mental states that are presented through many-layered picture of social and cultural life of those times. Some of the glorious works of dramatic literature were Madhyama Vyayoga of Ashwaghosa, Urubhanga of Bhasa, Abhigyanana Shakuntala of Kalidasa, Mrichch-khatika of Sudraka, Uttararama Charita of Bhavabhuti, Mudra Rakshasa of Vishakha Dutta, Mattavilasam of Mahendra Vikrama and Bhagavatajuka of Bodhayana. Mostly Sanskrit plays accomplish intense feelings to reach a state of bliss that is known as theory of 'Rasa'. Compared to Western plays, Sanskrit plays regard drama as make believe and not reality and therefore their treatment of Time, Place and Action is imaginative and not conditioned by scenographic ambience.

Rasa

The concept of creating Rasa in Sanskrit theatre through acting, therefore, is completely different from the Aristotilian concept of catharsis, which is an intense experience of emotions, which lead to fear or pity in tragic circumstances. In Sanskrit

Bharata's Definition of Drama

Drama is a mimicry of the actions and conduct of people, rich in various emotions, depicting different situations. This relates to actions of men good, bad, and indifferent, and gives courage, amusement, happiness, and advice to all of them.

life time and are still remembered for their female roles. Vijay Tendulkar, Khandolkar, Shirwadkar, Satish Alekar, Jayavant Dalvi and Govind Deshpande gave new dimension to theatre.

Western Impact

In Gujarati, Western impact was more pervasive because of the initiative of the enterprising Parsi community. They had accepted Western education and culture, formed professional theatre companies of the Western type, which staged their plays in Gujarati mostly in Mumbai. Parsi and Gujarati theatre was a mixture of melodrama, spectacle and exaggeration. Some outstanding theatre personalities of Gujarat are C.C. Mehta, Jaswant Thakar, Jayshankar Sundari, Shanta Gandhi, Nasurdin Shah, Pravin Joshi, Kanti Madhia and Sarita Joshi etc.

In Oniya plays of Rameswar Roy, Jagannath Prasad Das, Manoranjan Das, Basant Kumar Mahapatra, Gopal De were noted for their commercial success while Vinayak Purohit, Shivkumar Joshi, Madhu Roy, Dhimendra Desai and Pravin Joshi etc. stood for modern meaningful plays. In Manipur Ratan Thiyam, Kanhailal, Lokendra and Arambam came to the scene and contributed a lot and particularly Ratan's productions were acclaimed nationally and internationally. Modern Kannada theatre was enriched by T.P. Kelaram, Adya Rangacharya, Sivaram Karanth, A.N. Krishna Rao, Girish Kamad, Chandrasekhar Khambar and Director B.V. Karanth, K.V. Subanna, Prasanna, Nagesh, Akshara of Ninasum Theatre Institute.

In Tamil the actor / manager dominated, amongst whom T.Samband

Mudaliar, Prof. Sundaram Pillai, Sankardas Mudaliar, Suryanarayana Sastry, Thanjay Govindswami Rao, Venkitaswami Rayer, Rajamanickam Pillai, Trichi Kannaya Naidu, Viswanatha Das, S.G. Kittappa, T.K.S. Brothers, K.R. Ramaswami Kali N. Ratnam, P.U. Chinnappa, M.G. Chakrapani, M.G. Ramachandran, N.S. Krishnan, Thyagaraja Bhagavata, S.V. Sahasranamam, T.A. Madhuram, Sivaj Ganesan and M.S. Draupathi earned name and fame. Telugu theatre was also very active with Actor / Manager like Dharmavaram Krishnamachari, T. Raghavachari, Gurajada Apparao, Kalakuri Narayana Rao, Acharya Athreya Shriramulu, D.S.N. Murthy etc.

Malayalam theatre was flourishing under the shadow of Tamil. Ochira Velukutty Akbar Sankara Pillai, Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair, Kainikara Padmanabha Pillai, Kainikara Kumara Pillai, N. Krishna Pillai, C.J. Thomas, C.N. Sreekantan Nair, K. lanilayam Krishnan Nair, G. Sankara Pillai, N.P. Chellappan Nair, Veeran, P.J. Anton etc enriched theatre. Among the late dramatists T.N. Gopinathan Nair, Thop Bhasi, Ponkunnam Varki, K.T. Mohamed, Thikkodian, S.L. Puram Sadanandar N.N. Pillai, Kavalam Narayana Panikker Omcheri etc. also contributed much.

Parsi Theatre

Regarding Hindi, a small sprinkling of English-educated intelligentsia, feudal outlook, was more occupied with politics and had, therefore, little time for art and culture. The Parsi theatre therefore met the entertainment need of urban area. However, Bharatendu Harishchandra-poet, playwright, actor and manager a

The Fifth Veda

Natyashastra by Bharata has often been called the fifth Veda because of its contents. It is 2000 years old but still...



Andhayug, of D.V. Bharati, directed by E. Alkazi

uthampalam of Kerala for Kutiyattam performances and the other Bhaona-ghar in Assam where Bhaonas or Ankiya-nat is performed. This theatre is unique because of its unparalleled popularity in their regions. However, British rule created an entirely different ethos and a new type of theatre grew in big cities that has no relation with our performance tradition. The 19th century encounter with the West had changed the direction of Indian theatre. Western theatre, from the ancient Greek plays to 19th century, was emphasizing 'imitation of life' with a realistic approach, whereas Indian theatre created a feeling of Rasa by different mental states.

Primarily this theatre developed in cities like Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, which were founded by them. With the spread of their regime, this theatre reached almost all parts of India in a gradual manner. For Bengali aristocrats, their Jatra might have appeared crude and backward and therefore they were attracted to the novelty of Western Theatre, which was the decadent Victorian Theatre of mid 19th century. However, many talented playwrights / actors / directors / managers like Girishchandra Ghosh, Bijon Bhattacharya, Ardhendra Mustafi, Amritlal

Basu, Amarendranath Dutt, Amritlal Mitra, Sudendanath Ghosh, Shishir Bhaduri carried Bengali theatre to its glory. Besides, Bengali poets and playwrights like Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Dinabandhu Mitra, Girishchandra Ghosh, D.L. Roy, Kshirodprasad Vidyavinod, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Manmath Ray, Sachin Sengupta, Utpal Dutt, Badal Sircar and many others wrote plays for this new stage after the models of Shakespeare, Moliere, Ibsen, Bernard Shaw and others.

Tagore

The creativity of these plays is creditable, but Rabindra Nath Tagore's plays like *Rakta-korabi*, *Mukta-dhara*, *Raja*, *Dakghar* gave unusual dramatic visions and captured the basic contradictions of life and used Sanskrit theatre and traditional modes of Jatra with the methods of Western theatre. It was only after the memorable production of *Rakta-korabi* in the 60s of 20th century that Tagore's plays began to be recognized as valid drama.

Like in Bengal, the new theatrical activities in Marathi and Gujarati also became very popular, though they were different in treatment. Eventhough Marathi stage was an imitation of Western stage, classical singing made acting secondary. Many top ranking musicians like Vasant Panduranga (*Shakuntala*), Krishnaji Prabhakar (*Keechaka-vadha*), Mama Warerkar (*Bhoomikanya Sita*) etc. produced actors. Besides these playwrights / actors, in the line are Vishnudas Bhawe, Bhanurao Kothatkar, Ganpatrao Joshi, Ganpatrao Bhagavat, Annasahib Kirloskar, Kesavrao Bhonsle, Narayanrao Rajhans etc. and many of them became legends in their

The Sutra-dhara

A classical play traditionally opened with the nandi, a benediction of 8 to 12 lines of verse in praise of the gods, after which the sutra-dhara (stage manager) entered with his wife and described the place and occasion of the action.

human experience is communicated not by external reality but by enabling the spectators to involve them as participants in the performance. Despite our Indian-ness, the contact with West had widespread inter-action with world theatre. Numerous Indian plays have been translated and produced in the Western, African and Asian theatres and widely appreciated. The Western theatre has given us new

insight, through the modern sound and lighting equipment, which the modern directors are trying to link with our traditional tools and cultural ethos for establishing their identity. To reach out to more audience these directors extensively use directional lights, pre-recorded sound modules, computer animation and other multi-media devices for successful productions. Theatre is not dead. It is vibrantly alive today.

Music and Dance

Music is one of the oldest and finest forms of human expression. Music can be divided into Western classical, Hindustani classical, Carnatic classical, Folk, Jazz, Pop, Fusion, etc. The main schools of classical music, Hindustani and the Carnatic, continue to survive through oral tradition being passed on by teachers to disciples. This has led to the existence of family traditions called gharanas and sampradayas.

A new form of Hindustani music known as Khayal emerged during the 13th & 14th centuries. This style gave an entirely new dimension to Hindustani classical music tradition. Amir Khusro is considered the proponent of this style. Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Deekshithar and Shyama Shastri are popularly known as the trinity of Carnatic music.

The pivotal concept of Indian music (Carnatic and Hindustani) is Raga (melody). Ragas are made of different combinations of sapta (seven) swaras: Sa Sadjam; Ri Rishabam; Ga Gaandhaaram; Ma Mad-

hyamam; Pa Panchamam; Dha Dhaivadam; Ni Nishadam.

In Western classical, piano one octave consists of twelve notes whereas in Indian music the same octave contains 22 (srutis) notes. The twenty two srutis are called Siddha, Prabhavati, Kantha, Suprabha, Shikha, Diptimati, Ugra, Hladi, Nirvini, Dira, Sarphara, Kshanti, Hridayonmulini, Visarini, Prasuna, Vibhuti, Malini, Chapala, Vala, Sarvaratna, Sitantaj and Vikalini.

Swara is generally defined as a note whereas sruti constitutes the macrotonal intervals between two swaras. The nuances of these can be best understood in prayoga (practice) rather than theory.

Taala is defined as rhythm. But in vocal music or instrumental music taala plays a creative and organic part in bringing out the essence and elevating the musical expressions to new dimensions. The major taalas are Aadi Taala, a cycle of eight maath-ras (beats), Chautal or Eaka Taal consisting of twelve maathras mostly played on the Pakhawaj, Jhaptal consisting of ten maath-

A Birth Centenary

The birth centenary of the legendary 'Pitamaha' of modern Carnatic music Sangita Kalanidhi Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer was celebrated on July 25, 2008.



Midnight's Children (Adhi Raat Ke Bachche)
of Salman Rushdie, directed by Abilash Pillai

colled into one, provided a distinct theatre, e., West inspired Indian theatre. After his death at the age of 35, Parsi commercials again dominated till mid 20th century and produced some outstanding actors like Master Madan, Hussain and Narasi and playwrights like Agha Harsha, Radhe Shyam etc. who too could make some impact in Hindi area. Other leading dramatists were Jaaisankar Prasad, Dharamvir Bharati, Jagadishchandra Mathur, Mohan Rakesh and Surendra Verma.

These popular actors joined the silent and talky movies during the fourth decade of 20th century, which created a vacuum. During 1943-44, Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) brought some freshness in many regions even though they too were West oriented. The Prithviraj Theatres of Prithviraj Kapoor emerged during 1944-60, which was like Parsi Theatre, but with tremendous socio-nationalistic fervour. From mid 20th century onwards, authentic translations and adaptations of the works of the outstanding Western playwrights began to be staged. Besides Shakespeare and Moliere, playwrights like Sophocles, Euripides, Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekov, Tolstoy, Gorky, Sartre, Camus, Brecht, etc. were made available to the-

atres in Indian languages. The fifty years of the existence of National School of Drama with its multifarious theatre activities through the stalwart directors like Alkazi, Karanth, Ratan Thiyam, Anamika Haskar etc. gave a national character (i.e. regional and cultural specific) to the Indian theatre.

Disillusionment

Meanwhile for the last four decades, disillusionment towards realistic style was growing, world over, and international directors like Grotowski, Eugenio Barba, Richard Schechner, Peter Brook etc. from the West visited Asia and particularly India, repeatedly to explore our theatre performances for their own artistic expression. Moreover, German playwright Brecht's plays, akin to our traditionality and their production success, underlined the theatricality largely. The modern Jatra troupe of Bengal travel different towns and villages and show the life of Lenin, Stalin, Karl Marx, Ho Chi Minh but creativity is insignificant due to high commercialization techniques.

Another feature is the use of myth, folk tale as a metaphor for contemporary situation, because of which characters like animals, birds, trees, natural, supernatural, human, nonhuman, hand-curtain, puppets, masques etc. were brought in theatres along with poetry, song, rhyme or stylized speech. Productions of these plays have opened up limitless horizon for angika, vachika, aaharia and satika abhinaya along with the use of dance, ritual, tantric, martial, acrobatic arts etc.

Vibrant Theatre

This is the revival of total theatre, where

Music Festivals

Many cities hold annual music festivals. These include Sangeet Natak Akademi's Festival (New Delhi), Tyagaraja Festival (Tiruvayyar), Bhatkhande Festival (Lucknow), Shanmukhananda (Mumbai), Tansen Festival (Gwalior) Music & Dance Festival (Chennai).

Media

India has a very active print and electronic media. The total number of newspapers and periodicals was 65,032 as on 31 March 2007.

Radio Broadcasting

Radio broadcasting began in India in the early 1920s. The first programme was broadcast in 1923 by the Radio Club of Bombay. This was followed by the setting up of a Broadcasting Service in 1927 on an experimental basis in Bombay and Calcutta. The government took over the transmitters and began operating them under the name Indian Broadcasting Service. It was changed to All India Radio in 1936.

All India Radio today has a network of 225 broadcasting centres covering 91.42% of the area and reaching 99.13 per cent of the population. AIR broadcasts in 24 languages and 146 dialects. It has 149 medium wave frequency transmitters, 55 high Frequency Modulation (FM) transmitters.

Television

Television transmission began in India from a makeshift studio in the Akashvani Bhawan in New Delhi on 15th September 1959. A 500 watt transmitter carried the signal within a radius of 25 km. around Delhi. However, a regular service with a news bulletin became a reality only in 1965.

After seven years, the second television centre commenced service in Bombay. By 1975 TV service was available in Kolkata,

Chennai, Srinagar, Amritsar and Lucknow. Colour transmission was introduced during the Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982. New Delhi in 1982.

Top Dailies in India

Rank	Publication	Language	Circulation
1.	Dainik Jagran	Hindi	20,68,172
2.	The Times of India	English	18,09,580
3.	Malayala Manorama	Malayalam	15,89,823
4.	The Hindu	English	13,30,518
5.	Hindustan	Hindi	12,96,894
6.	Amar Ujala	Hindi	12,96,719
7.	Anand Bazar Patrika	Bengali	12,55,206
8.	Lokmat	Marathi	12,35,574
9.	Hindustan Times	English	11,88,786
10.	Eenadu	Telugu	11,76,028

Weeklies

1.	Malayala Manorama	Malayalam	6,66,900
2.	Ananda Vikatan	Tamil	4,08,872
3.	Malayalam	Malayalam	3,16,725
4.	Mathrubhumi		
	Thozhilvartha	Malayalam	2,62,762
5.	Balarama	Malayalam	2,48,812

Fortnightlies & Monthlies

1.	Vanitha	Malayalam	5,05,786
2.	Meri Saheli	Hindi	3,47,984
3.	Lokrajya	Marathi	3,45,997
4.	Grehlakshmi	Hindi	3,00,275
5.	Aval Vikatan	Tamil	2,20,006

Annuals

1.	Kalnimay	Marathi	51,11,379
2.	Kalnimay	Hindi	6,49,838
3.	Malige Panchanga		
	Darshini	Kannada	2,67,572
4.	Manorama Yearbook	English	2,44,833
5.	Sharadia Bartaman	Bengali	1,67,695

Audit Bureau of Circulations, July-Dec.2007

The First Newspaper

Hickey's Bengal Gazette or the Calcutta General Advertiser was published from Calcutta in 1780.

as, Roopak taala of seven maathras, and Teen Tala of sixteen maathras.

Violin is a widely accepted musical instrument of foreign origin which has an unavoidable presence in Indian classical music.

Some of the famous musicians

Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar (1890-1967) • Maharajapuram Viswantha Iyer (1896-1970) • Papanasam Sivan (1890-1973) • Mysore Vasudevachariar (1865-1961) • Madurai Mani Iyer (1912-1968) • M.D. Ramathan (1923-1984) • Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavata (1896-1974) • Pt. Vishnu Digambar Paluskar (1872-1931) • Ustad Faiyaz Khan (1886-1956) • Pt. Omkarnath Thakur (1897-1967) • Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khan (1903-1968) • Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur (1910-1992) • Kumar Gandharva (1924-1992).

Some of the famous instrumentalists

Sarod: Ali Akbar Khan, Allauddin Khan, Amjad Ali Khan, Buddhadev Des Gupta, Bahadur Khan, Sharan Rani, Zarin S. Sharma

Tabla: Alla Rakha Khan, Kishan Maharaj, Nikhil Ghosh, Zakir Hussain

Violin: Baluswamy Dikshitar, Gajanan Rao Joshi, Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, M.S. Gopala-krishnan, Mysore T. Chowdiah, T.N. Krishnan

Shehnai: Bismillah Khan

Sitar: Nikhil Banerjee, Ravi Shankar, Vilayat Khan, Hara Shankar Bhattacharya

Flute: Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Pannalal Ghose, T.R. Mahalingam

Veena: K.R. Kumaraswamy Iyer, Doraiswamy Iyengar.

Dances

Dance in India has an unbroken tradition of over 2000. Two main divisions of its forms are classical and folk. Classical dance forms are based on ancient dance discipline and have rigid rules of presentation. Important among them are Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Manipuri, Kuchipudi and Odissi.

Folk dances of India vary according to the region and have no specific grammar. They fit in with the scheme of festivals in each region.

Some of the famous dancers

Bharatanatyam: Bala Saraswati, C. V. Chandrasekhar, Leela Samson, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Padma Subramanyam, Rukmini Devi, Sanyukta Panigrahi, Sonal Mansingh, Yamini Krishnamurthi

Kathak: Bharati Gupta, Birju Maharaj, Damayanti Joshi, Durga Das, Gopi Krishna, Kumudini Lakhia, Sambhu Maharaj, Sitara Devi

Kuchipudi: Josyula Seetharamaiah, Vempathi Chinna Sathyam

Manipuri: Guru Bipin Sinha, Jhaveri Sisters, Nayana Jhaveri, Nirmala Mehta, Savita Mehta

Odissi: Debaprasad Das, Dharendra Nath Pattnaik, Indrani Rahman, Kelucharan Mahapatra, Priyambada Mohanty, Sonal Mansingh.

Dances from the Epics

The most common sources for Indian dances are the epics. Nritta (pure dance), Nritya (emotional expression) and Natya (drama) are the three essential aspects of the dance.

public sector, 2 under State Governments and 19 under private sector.

Inland Waterways

India has about 14,500 km of navigable waterways which comprise rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc. About 44 million tonnes of cargo is being moved annually by Inland Water Transport (IWT), a fuel-efficient and environment-friendly mode. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) came into existence on 27 October 1986 for development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. The head office of the Authority is located at Noida. The Authority also has its regional offices at Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi and sub-offices at Allahabad, Varanasi, Bhagalpur, Farakka and Kollam.

Three inland waterways have been declared as National Waterways. They are: (1) NW-1: Allahabad-Haldia stretch (1620 km) of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly river system; (2) NW-2: Sadiya-Dhubri stretch (891 km) of the Brahmaputra river; and (3) NW-3: Kottapuram-Kollam stretch of the West Coast Canal along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 km).

Roads

India has a vast road network of about 3.34 million km that includes National Highways, State Highways, major district roads and rural roads. The length of National Highways in the country at the time of Independence (1947) was 21,440 km. Today, the length of National Highways is 66,590 km, the length of State Highways is 1,28,000 km, the length of major district roads is 4,70,000 km and the length of rural roads is 26,50,000 km.

Roads carry about 65% of the freight traffic and about 80% of the passenger traffic in the country. National Highways carry about 40% of the entire vehicular traffic in the country.

Air Traffic in India

The years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been years of record growth in air traffic in India. During the period April-September, 2006, international and domestic passengers recorded growth of 15.8 per cent and 44.6 per cent, respectively, leading to an overall growth of 35.5 per cent. During the same period, international and domestic cargo recorded growth of 13.8 per cent and 8.7 per cent, respectively, resulting in an overall growth of 12 per cent.

The promise and the potential of the Indian aviation market are awesome. Over 135 aircraft have been added in the last two years alone. By 2010, India's fleet strength will stand at 500-550.

The number of different categories of registered motor vehicles in India (per year 2002 data) is 5,88,63,000. This includes 4,14,78,000 two-wheeler, 75,71,000 cars, jeeps and taxis, 6,69,000 buses, 30,45,000 goods vehicles and 61,00,000 other vehicles. Traffic on the roads is growing at the rate of 7 to 10 per annum.

Civil Aviation

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) manages 127 airports including 15 international (12 AAI and 3 civil enclaves), 87 domestic airports (7 customs and 80 domestic airports) and 25 civil enclaves and defence airfields. It controls and manages the entire Indian airspace - 2.8 million nautical miles square on land and 1.7 million nautical miles oceanic area and restricted area 1.57 million nautical miles square.

Revolutionised by liberalisation, the aviation sector in India has been marked by fast-paced change in the past few

Transportation

Railways

Railways provide the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers. The first ever train in India was flagged off from Bombay to Thane on April 16, 1853. The distance was just 34 kms. It is now one of the world's largest transportation systems. The total network route km is 63,465 and the number of employees 1.54 million. Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,133 stations spread over a route-length of 63,465 km with a fleet of 8,025 locomotives, 44,090 passenger service vehicles, 5,990 other coaching vehicles and 2,07,176 wagons. The network is divided into 16 zones. The 16 zones and their respective headquarters are given in the following table:

Railway Zones

Zone (16)	Headquarters
Southern	Chennai
Western	Mumbai (Church Gate)
Central	Mumbai CST
Northern	New Delhi
Eastern	Kolkata
South-Eastern	Kolkata
North-Eastern	Gorakhpur
South-Central	North-East
Hyderabad	Maligaon (Guwahati)
Frontier	Allahabad
North-Central	Hajipur
East-Central	

Warship

At the Mumbai Festival 2006 had an unusual venue. It was held at the decommissioned aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, INS Vikrant.

North-Western
East-Coast
South-Western
West-Central
South-East Central

Bhubaneswar

Jabalpur

Bilaspur

Shipping and Ports

India has a 7617 km long coastline. 95% of India's foreign trade by volume and 70% by value moves through ports.

There are 12 major ports in India, viz. Kolkata (including Haldia), Paradip, Visakha-patnam, Chennai, Ennore, Tuticorin on the East coast; and Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawahar Nehru (JNPT), Mumbai and Kandla on the West coast.

There are 187 minor/intermediate ports under the administrative control of concerned maritime State Government. Out of these, about 43 ports handle cargo.

The number of cargo vessels handled at major ports is about 16,500 per annum. The aggregate cargo handled at major ports during 2005-06 was approximately 382.33 million tonnes.

As on 1 April 2005, there were 707 ships registered in India with a gross tonnage (i.e. freight carrying capacity) of 82,86,402 GRT. India has the largest merchant shipping fleet among the developing countries and ranks 19th amongst the countries with the largest cargo carrying fleet with 7.07 million GT and the average of the fleet being 17 years. There are 28 shipyards in the country; 7 under Central

Defence

The Army

The Army is organised into five operational Commands, viz., Southern, Eastern, Western, Central and Northern Command and one Training Command. The Army consists of a number of arms and services. At the Army Headquarters in New Delhi, the Chief of the Army Staff is assisted by the Vice-Chief of the Army Staff and seven other Principal Staff Officers.

Navy

The Navy is responsible for defence and security of India's maritime interests and assets, both in times of war and peace. The Chief of the Naval Staff at the Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, is assisted by four Principal Staff Officers. The Navy has three commands, i.e., Western, Eastern and Southern, with their headquarters located at Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam and Kochi respectively. At present, it has two major Naval bases at Mumbai and Vishakhapatnam.

Air Force

The Indian Air Force, established more than six decades ago, has indeed come a long way to become a balanced and potent world class Air Force in the world. There are five operational commands. These are: Western Air Command, South-Western Air Command, Central Air Command, Eastern Air Command



Indian Army

and Southern Air Command. In addition, Maintenance Command and Training Command are two functional commands. The Air Headquarters is in New Delhi.

Women in the Armed Forces

While provision has all along existed for women to join the Armed Forces Medical Services, the Armed Forces Dental Services and the Military Nursing Service, Section 12 of the Army Act provided that women would not normally be eligible for enrolment in the Army. Similar provisions also existed in the cases of the Air Force and the Navy. However, in acknowledgement of the changing times, the Government has approved the induction of women into selected non-combatant branches in the three Forces. The entry of women is mainly in the officer cadres and on Short Service Commission basis. Further continuance depends on the basis of the experience gained. In pursuance of the

A Telecom Giant

India's telecommunication network is the third largest in the world and the second largest among the emerging economies of Asia. In Dec. '07, there were 273 m. connections.

afford, the sector has now graduated to being a fiercely competitive industry with the presence of a number of private and public airlines and several consumer-oriented offerings.

The Indian fleet, which comprised 170 aircraft in May 2005, is now almost twice that now, with 312 units. With the scheduled 2007 additions of 54-55, this number will rise to just under 370 by the end of the year. And growth is expected to continue apace: the Centre estimates that India's fleet will reach approximately 500-550 aircraft by the end of 2010.

In the same period, the domestic market size will cross 60 million and international traffic 20 million. Aircraft manufacturer Airbus pegs India's demand at 1100 aircraft, worth US\$ 105 billion, over the next 20 years.

India continues to show steady year on year growth, with a 7 per cent increase in the number of flights into and out of India (an additional 835 flights and more than 200,000 seats a month). The number of flights has virtually doubled from 6,800 in May 2001 to 13,200 in May 2007.

In fact, India is in third place in the Top 10 list of countries with the highest

number of additional flights in May this year, behind only China and the US.

India's civil aviation passenger growth, at 20 per cent, is among the highest in the world. The sector is slated to cruise far ahead of other Asian giants like China or even strong economies like France and Australia. The number of passengers who will be airborne by 2020 is a whopping 400 million.

Between April and September 2006, however, amid a flurry of new entrants to the sector, domestic traffic growth accelerated to more than 45 per cent. The Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) predicts that domestic traffic will grow at 25 per cent to 30 per cent a year until 2010 and international traffic growth by 15 per cent, taking the overall market to more than 100 million passengers by the end of the decade. Indian carriers have 480 aircraft on order for delivery by 2012, which compares with a fleet size of 310 aircraft operating in the country today.

The number of air travellers is about 0.8 per cent of the population. By the time even 10 per cent of the population begins to fly, India will need about 5,000 aircraft.

Atomic Clock and Biological Clock

Atomic Clock: The most accurate device available today for measuring time. It is based on a standard called UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time) in which the average of atomic readings from 18 different centres of the world is calculated. This is expected to be accurate time for a quarter million years.

Biological Clock: A mysterious timing system that operates in plants and animals. This clock keeps accurate time of days, weeks, months and years and times the physiological activities of living things to keep them in rhythm with the environment. Reproductive

cycles, menstrual periods, breeding seasons, sleeping times etc are synchronised with the help of this clock. The migration of birds and blossoming of flowers are all set by the built-in clocks.

Cat's Eyes: Safety device to help drivers to see the road. Small pieces of shaped glass backed by mirrors that reflect light are placed in a domed rubber pad and sunk in the road.

Conveyor Belt: A continuously moving strip of rubber or metal which is used in factories for moving objects along.

o Air Force after the initial operational
arance in 2005-06.

Agni I, a single stage solid propelled
issile having a range of 800 kms was
stfired in January 2004. The range fills
ie gap between Prithvi and the Interme-
iate Range Ballistic Missile. This missile
an be fired from both rail or road missile

launchers.

Another success story is the Pinaka.
It is an Area Weapon System and has
undergone confirmatory user trials suc-
cessfully in July, 2003. The Pinaka has
the capability of firing in a single salvo
12 rockets in less than 40 seconds with a
range of 38 kms.

Space Research

INSAT system is one of the largest domestic
communication satellite systems in the
Asia-Pacific region. The system provides
a total of about 175 transponders in the
C, Extended C and Ku-bands. Being a
multipurpose satellite system, INSAT
provides services to telecommunica-
tions, television broadcasting, weather
forecasting, disaster warning and Search
and Rescue fields.

IRS India has the largest constellation
of Remote Sensing Satellites, which are
providing services both at the national
and global levels. From the Indian
Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites, data is
available in a variety of spatial resolu-
tions starting from 360 metres and
highest resolution being 2.5 metres.
Besides, the state-of-the-art cameras of
IRS spacecraft take the pictures of the
Earth in several spectral bands.

Launch vehicles

After successfully testing the first indig-
enous launch vehicle SLV-3 in 1980, ISRO
built the next generation by successfully
launching IRS-P2 spacecraft onboard the
Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in
October 1994. On 18 April 2001, India
successfully launched its Geosynchronous
Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

PSLV The four stage PSLV is capable of
launching upto 1,600 kg satellites into

a 620 km polar orbit. It has provision to
launch payloads from 100 kg micro-satel-
lites or mini or small satellites in different
combinations. It can also launch one-ton
class payloads into Geosynchronous
Transfer Orbit (GTO).

PSLV-C9 successfully delivered the big-
gest satellite mission in the world of 824
kg, comprising 10 satellites, into orbit. It
included 2 Indian (690 kg Cartosat-2,
and 83 kg experimental remote sensin
Indian Mini Satellite -1) and eight 50
kg nanosatellites from Canada, Japan,
Denmark, Germany and Netherlands. The
closest attempt was by Russia in 2007 with
a 295 kg payload. The PSLV is scheduled
to launch Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft.

GSLV was commissioned on 3 May,
2003. It is capable of launching 2,000
kg class satellites into Geosynchronous
Transfer Orbit (GTO). The develop-
ment of indigenous cryogenic stage can
be used as the third stage of GSLV and
made further progress in 2002.

Launch infrastructure

The Space Doctor Space Centre
(SDSC, SHAR, Thiruvananthapuram) is a
Part Cost of India.

The newly built Space Launch
Complex (SLC) is a permanent launch
complex for the PSLV and GSLV.

Largest R&D spenders, '07

Largest spenders, '07 (As % of GDP)

Country	(\$ billion)	Country	(\$ billion)
US	350	China	175
Japan	145	Germany	65
France	44	India	42
UK	40		
Country	(%)	Country	(%)
Sweden	3.9	Japan	3.4
US	2.8	South Korea	2.6
Germany	2.5	Taiwan & France	2.2
UK	1.9	Australia	1.7
China	1.6	Russia	1.3
Italy & Spain	1.1	India	<1.0

In the recent past, much of the growth was fueled by a rapid expansion of R&D in China and, to a limited extent, India; both are emerging as important players in the global R&D space. By the end of 2007, China and India accounted for little over 30% of global R&D staff, the ratio was 19% in 2004. The share of Asia in the total global R&D spending is likely to be 40.8% by the end of 2008 as against 36.9% in 2006 and much smaller, say, a decade earlier.

MNCs are the key players in global R&D accounting for about half of the total expenditure. Business R&D accounts for more than two-thirds of the global R&D, of which more than half is spent by the top 700 MNCs.

The pace of globalization of R&D in particular and international flows of technology in general has been gathering momentum for the past few years. The factors contributing to this phenomenon include:

Intensifying international competition demanding continuous innovation at

lower cost and early delivery of discoveries to market.

Scarcity of engineering and scientific manpower in advanced economies ; growing pool of R&D talents in countries like China and India at much lower cost.

Improving flexibility in managing cross-border R&D projects, thanks to ICT : e-mail, video conferencing etc.

Enabling policy changes in many developing countries: Stronger IPR regime, direct grants, tax waivers, quality infrastructure etc.

Venture Capital firms are encouraging technology start-ups, especially in the IT sector, to use lower cost offshore destinations for development.

Early entry into local markets which are potentially large in countries like China and India.

International network of alliances, global sourcing arrangements, sharing of databases, sharing of risks and optimising time-to-market are the imperatives.

Building blocks of a world - class ecosystem for R&D

High-quality, innovative R&D workforce

An environment that encourages competition and investment in innovation; the openness of the economy which stimulates inward and outward movement of goods and services, capital and people.

A tradition of fundamental R&D mostly funded by the Government.

Sophisticated and demanding customers and markets.

Robust mechanisms to successful

1.8 Billion Young People

Approximately 1.8 billion young people (10 to 24 years) live in this world. Eighty-five per cent of them live in developing countries.

Indian R&D Scene: Great in (small) Parts*

G. Vijaya Raghavan & V.S.M.Nair
VMA Consultants

Research & Development (R&D), the well-spring of innovation, is creative work undertaken on a systematic basis or increasing the stock of knowledge and the use of such stock of knowledge to discover new processes, products and services. R&D investment, in the final reckoning, reflects the willingness of an enterprise or government or society to forego current revenue or profit for the greater benefit of better future performance.

The common measures to determine the relative levels of focus of innovation of a country are: annual budgets, number of national / international patents and peer-reviewed publications. In the business context, innovation should lead to better performance through improvements in efficiency, productivity, quality, competitive positioning and market share.

World Bank defines 'innovation' in terms of "new to the world" knowledge creation and commercialisation as well as "new to the market" knowledge diffusion and absorption. The latter implies enterprises applying existing knowledge or technologies in new locations and product areas. According to World Bank, increased diffusion and absorption of existing national and global knowledge could yield quicker and greater

benefits at lower costs than exploring new knowledge. If all enterprises could achieve national best practices based on knowledge already in use in India, the economic output could increase several times.

Especially for developing countries, the innovation system should include: domestic R&D and its commercialisation and application; policies, institutions, mechanisms and players that facilitate the country to tap into and benefit from global knowledge which is new to the country; import of plant and machinery; technology collaboration; foreign direct investment; and emigrants in the West who help their countries (especially in the case of China and India) abreast of new ideas.

Knowledge, of course, has no value until it is put to use. It is the entrepreneur who turns innovation into a commercial opportunity. Hence, global economy is driven by innovation and entrepreneurship within an enabling environment created by the society for fostering both.

Internationalisation of R&D

R&D spending has been consistently growing globally. Worldwide spending in 2007 was of the order of \$1125 billion on Purchasing Power Parity basis.

Energy Intensity

It is encouraging to see that India's energy intensity has fallen over time. In comparison with the emerging economies of Brazil and China, the use of energy per capita in India has remained moderate.

translate early stage IP into commercial outcomes ñ Incubators, professional advisory, venture capital funds etc ñ and a strong IP regime

Proximity to and alliances with premier science or engineering universities

Facility to access capital during all phases of evolution of a start-up

Develop, attract, retain the best and the brightest by providing opportunity to address the most challenging and important problems and to work with the smartest professionals, state-of-the-art facilities, and competitive compensation and career opportunities.

Treating innovation as business: R & D to be a business, not a cost centre; R & D value to be determined in terms of return on investment, timing of the returns; R & D results to be evaluated using such performance metrics as successful new products brought to the market, ROI, Patents used to develop successful products, recognition of R & D staff in technical community, and articles in peer-reviewed publications.

The seemingly unbeatable odds facing Indian R&D sector

Most everything that contributes to creating a strong and expanding R&D base looks so feeble in India. Small islands of excellence in a sea of technological mediocrity seem to sum up the Indian scene.

India lags behind China and other leading East Asian countries in key social and economic development indicators such as per capita income, adult literacy rates, quality of infrastructure, volume of

trade and investment.

Enrolment in tertiary education is as low as 12%; most of them join disciplines which offer limited job opportunities; less than 25% of college graduates are suitable for employment.

In developed countries, universities are the source of sustained creativity and innovation. But the Indian situation in this regard is simply tragical.

Institutions of higher technical education are facing severe shortage of quality faculty with PG/PhD qualifications. The quality or relevance of PhD dissertations even at IITs is poor. Very few research programmes anywhere in the country relate to disruptive innovations.

India produces annually about 6500 science and engineering PhDs, about half of the number produced by China. Indian science and engineering doctorates in the US are one-fourth those from China. Most of them are planning to stay back (Indians in the US science and engineering occupation with bachelor degrees or higher outnumber those from any other Asian country).

The quality difference between the best of graduates and the average graduates (as reflecting the best of institutions and the average institutions) in India is truly phenomenal.

The ratio of those who are engaged in R&D to the working population is only 0.02%.

Science is no longer an automatic career choice for the bright, young minds in India.

Despite the scorching pace at which ICT sector is growing in India, the in-

A Favourite Outsourcing Destination

India is world's favourite outsourcing destination. Outsourcing business in India is increasing at a rate four times more than any other country. India holds an edge as it commands global confidence to produce perfect Turn Around Time - the time needed to perform a task, especially receiving, completing, and returning an assignment.

able model for continuous innovation / Absence of champions / Low stakeholder involvement / Resistance to change among top management / Resistance to change among other employees / Existence of traditional organizational hierarchies / Insufficient budget allocation to innovation / Problems in measuring innovation intensity / Failure to innovate successfully in the past / Failure to keep pace with technological change / Tendency to force-fit best practices / Skill shortages due to lack of in-house training / Pressure for short-term results, lack of long-term thinking / Lack of vision displayed by firm leadership

India shall prevail, no matter what!

If India could vanquish three of the toughest technological challenges of our times, we surely can take on whatever this century throws at us.

Among the three, two have been the most secretive and rigorously regulated sectors globally. India, therefore, had to learn, unlearn and re-learn through own experiences of successes and failures. In both these cases, India had to live with serious embargoes and trade restrictions by countries which have what India wanted.

In the case of Atomic energy, India developed scientific and technological capabilities to have the complete fuel cycle from uranium exploration, mining, extraction and conversion through fuel fabrication, Heavy Water production, and Reactors to reprocessing and waste management.

Equally exhilarating has been the success of ISRO in space technology: placing ten satellites in the orbit in a single launch, recovering orbiting Spacecrafts back to earth and other feats of ISRO are remarkable by any standard. India is the only developing

India's strengths

May be a significant part of the country is mired in poverty and illiteracy. But then, India has huge stocks of intellectual capital, the fuel to innovation, to draw upon.

Fourth largest economy (on Purchasing Power Parity basis) and second fastest growing large economy in the world. Indian domestic market is the fastest growing market in the world.

355 Universities; 18,000 colleges; 25 lakh graduates per year of which about 350,000 being engineers as against 80,000 in US; the number of graduating engineers to touch 14 lakh by 2015.

Percent of science and technology graduates in the age group of 18-24 in India higher than both China and USA

The quality of human capital can be truly awesome. Of the over 320,000 candidates appeared for IIT JEE 108, 314 500 were rejected; of those rejected minimum 30 % can get admission in some of the best engineering colleges anywhere in the world. Many Indians are leading R & D and product development in cutting edge areas in the premier Universities around the world, especially in the US. Indian scientists and engineers are senior members in renowned research labs like Bell Labs, IBM Research, Motorola Labs, HP Labs, Microsoft Research and Xerox PARC.

Large pool of English-speaking, hard-working, fast-learning scientific and technical manpower.

Number of resident patent applications Per million

	inhabitants Per billion	\$GDP Per billion	\$ R&D expenditure
India	6.04	1.97	0.25
China	71.66	11.92	0.91
Brazil	26.50	2.74	0.29
Indonesia	17.09	5.00	10.56

In the years ahead, China and India will be competing severely to access global resources, markets, technology etc. New technology and new knowledge will be the most potent weapon to win the battle for supremacy. At this point, China looks unassailable considering its performance relating to patents.

Type of Patents

	India	China
Resident direct filings	6610	93,172
Non-resident direct filings	N.A	40,022
PCT National Phase Entries	11,090	40,133
PCT International Applications	503	3,826
Grants to Residents	750	20,709
Grants to Non-residents	1090	32,600

PCT: Patent Co-operation Treaty

MNCs are the driving force in high-end corporate R&D investments in India. R&D spending of about 300 MNCs in their labs in the country surpasses that of the country's entire private sector. Of the most prolific 50 applicants for patents in India between 1995 and 2005, 44 were foreign firms. Only 6 were Indian; 3 of these were public institutions and one, a public corporation. ; just two were private Indian firms, both in the pharmaceutical industry.

Share of India's patent applications in the US is smaller than that of China, Russia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Israel.

Antiquated and unresponsive proce-

dures for monetising IP produced within the government systems led to very low commercialization. In fact, the RoI from the public R & D spending must have been extremely low.

Despite several initiatives to modernize India's patent system, there are issues with IP rights in India: It can take years to secure protection / enforcement of rights through the courts. A recent court decision to refuse a fresh patent for incremental innovations made by Novartis led to the company moving large investments in India elsewhere.

A recent report by the National Knowledge Commission, Govt. of India on innovation in India has brought together a set of external as well as internal barriers to innovation as perceived by small and medium and large enterprises in the country.

External barriers: Skill shortages due to lack of emphasis on industrial innovation, problem-solving, design, experimentation etc. in the education curricula / Lack of effective collaboration between industry and research conducted in Universities and R&D institutions / Insufficient pricing power to derive value from innovations/ Excessive government regulations / Insufficient external pressure to innovate / Capital intensiveness of innovation/ Long time taken for innovations to reach market / Weakness in IPR regime / Lack of government incentives for innovations.

Internal barriers: Lack of organizational focus on innovation as a strategy for growth and competitiveness / Inefficient knowledge management systems within the company / Poor understanding of customer needs and market dynamics / Skill shortages due to lack of effective in-house training programmes / Inability to move beyond the first successful innovation and develop a sustain-

ware industries.

Pharma firms are enjoying the benefits of significant R & D investments, many are becoming serious global players.

Trends in publication of scientific literature from India (a proxy for producing basic knowledge, especially in publications which are internationally refereed) and patenting trends are healthy. The number of publications from India, stable at around 15,000 papers per year until 2000, increased to over 25,000 papers per year during the last 5 years. Research papers from India received close to 260,000 citations in the last 5 years; this is 4 times as many citations as received in early 1980s. However, China's performance in this regard is lot more impressive.

India is experiencing a rapid increase in patenting activity. Applications have risen from around 10,000 per annum to 24,505 for 2005 -06, a growth of 40 % over the previous year. Only about one-fourth of the applicants were Indians. Patents granted in US for India increased from 23 (Japan: 19,525; China: 99) to 341 in 2003 (Japan: 35,517; China: 573).

Players and technologies have changed significantly in recent times. CSIR has always been the first among the top patent assignees for all Indian inventions till 2006. In 2006, Microsoft was ranked first, with 584 Indian patents, and CSIR was ranked second with 476 patents followed by Johnson & Johnson (271), Qualcomm Inc (249), Honda Motor (237), Samsung Electronics (216), Komink Philips Electric (194), Thomson

licensing 3a (137), Hindustan Lever (146) and Motorola Inc (145).

According to Global Sourcing, during the next 5 years or so about \$ 17 billion of R & D will be outsourced globally. India has a good chance of attracting about 70 % of this market on the strength and credibility of exemplary performance by the country in the IT BPO sector. Should \$ 10 ñ 15 billion worth of research work arrive in India in the next 5 years, the number of researchers operating at the high end of the technological spectrum is expected to multiply to about 2,50,000.

As per the estimates of Battelle, R&D Magazine and OECD, global R&D expenditures are likely to more than quadruple over next 25 years. The projected distribution of total world R&D expenditure among select countries and region by 2030 is estimated as follows : China 18.0%, US 17.7%, India 10.0%, Japan 4.0%, Other Asia 20.0%, W.Europe 13.0%, Other West 7.0%, Russia 3.0%, Others 7.3%.

Government can make a difference, if it gets smart

Innovation does not take place in a vacuum. Government has to play a crucial role in knowledge creation by designing appropriate policies for funding high-risk R&D, procuring the outputs of R&D, providing tax subsidies, facilitating knowledge diffusion and ensuring I protection. Most of all, it should build capacity to create, acquire, assimilate and effectively use new knowledge by investing in people.

Indian Immigrants' Success Story

Twenty-six p.c. of US technology companies founded by immigrants over the last decades have had an Indian founder, more than those from the UK, China, Taiwan and Japan combined.

worldwide to manufacture and launch own satellites in geo-stationary orbit. Finally, in information technology India has joined the league of the top global players in the software sector by competing and winning the most competitive global markets.

India's stock of scientists and engineers engaged in R & D is among the largest in the world. There are 200 national labs., about 1300 R & D units in the industrial sector and a very large number of research institutes at the State level. The number of people employed in R & D is estimated at 300,000.

Even after adjusting for productivity differences, the cost of quality professionals in India is one-half to one-third (not less) of the cost of comparable professionals in advanced countries.

India is forging ahead

Innovation can be in different sizes and shapes: Indian telecom companies are creating the cheapest calls in the world and attracting 8-10 million new subscribers per month; Tata's Nano will be the cheapest car; Bharat Forge is the biggest and the most profitable forging company in the world....

India is emerging as a major knowledge based services and R&D power and a destination for high - technology industry investment and trade. Growing availability of innovative, entrepreneurial, scientific and engineering skills and manpower at competitive costs is the principal driving force.

India is home to some of the biggest R & D spenders in the corporate world, after US, UK, China, France and Japan. In fact, the R & D investments by these MNCs surpass the total R & D spending of Indian private sector enterprises. These R&D Centres are on the cutting edge of technologies and are filing large number of patents

Select MNCs with Advanced R&D Labs in India

ABB, Delphi, Eli Lilly, Monsanto, Nestle, Nokia, Oracle, Pfizer, Philips, Roche, Siemens, Unilever, Whirlpool, Bosch, Dell, Dupont, Astra Zeneca, Google, GE, Honda, Hewlett Packard, DaimlerChrysler, IBM and Microsoft, Cisco, Motorola, Texas Instruments.

A McKinsey survey of 5,500 senior corporate leaders of large companies worldwide revealed that India is the preferred destination for investments in R&D.

According to international FDI monitoring agency LOCOMONITOR, India has attracted the largest number of R&D projects from overseas in the last few years followed by China, UK, USA and France.

According to a recent study conducted by PROINNO Europe, an initiative of the European Union, India bagged most of the R & D projects offshored from European Union countries during the period 2002 - 2006 followed by China, USA, Japan and UK.

As per the Biotech Country Attractiveness Index prepared by the Global R & D Report, India is the third most attractive destination for Biotech R & D.

Recent economic growth has been driven by rapid expansion of export-oriented, skill-intensive manufacturing and, especially, knowledge / skill-intensive services.

Till recently only process (not product) patents were recognized. With India joining the WTO in 1995 and subsequent discharge of its obligations under the TRIPS agreement, several initiatives have been taken to create a healthy environment for innovation. India is emerging as a creator of IP. Patents are now given to products in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, telecoms and soft-

Global Competitiveness Index (for India)

	Rank (Out of 131 countries/economies)	Score (Out of 7)
Global Competitiveness Index 2007-2008 (India)	48	4.33
Basic requirements	74	4.22
1st pillar: Institutions	48	4.32
2nd pillar: Infrastructure	67	3.45
3rd pillar: Macroeconomic stability	108	4.21
4th pillar: Health & primary education	101	4.92
Efficiency enhancers	31	4.52
5th pillar: Higher education & training	55	4.13
6th pillar: Goods market efficiency	36	4.66
7th pillar: Labor market efficiency	96	4.07
8th pillar: Financial market sophistication	37	4.93
9th pillar: Technological readiness	62	3.17
10th pillar: Market size	3	6.16
Innovation & sophistication factors	26	4.36
11th pillar: Business sophistication	26	4.81
12th pillar: Innovation	28	3.90
Rank		

(Out of 131 countries/economies)

Business Competitiveness Index 2007-2008 31

Sophistication of company operations and strategy 27

Quality of the national business environment 33

The Most Problematic Factors for Doing Business
Percent of responses

Note: From a list of 14 factors, respondents were asked to select the five most problematic for doing business in their country and to rank them between 1 (most problematic) and 5.

Source: Global Competitiveness Report 2007-2008

India, of course, has been doing all these in the past. However, foolish controls and regulations robbed the country of most of the benefits these initiatives could have given rise to.

The best option to get lot more out of the mammoth investments that have already been made in the public R&D systems is to intimately associate private entities with all the future R&D programmes. Admittedly, the public systems cannot on their own create much value in this space. ISRO and Atomic Energy group could do what they did because of the significant autonomy they enjoyed despite being part of the Government system. They also had the benefit of outstanding leadership driving their programmes.

India should invite (as China has been doing) the best research Universities in the world to set up campuses here and provide them the best of environments to do what they do best.

Indian Diaspora, especially those in the US and Europe, is a source of awesome power to enhance the Indian R&D scene. Indians are among the most successful immigrant communities in US history. About 20% of US IT firms were started by Indians (US-based Indians account for only a tiny fraction of US population) and they played a central role in the success of export-driven Indian software industry. Innovative policy initiatives should help tap this resource.

* The authors helped themselves generously from several online / offline sources. 'Unleashing India's Innovation: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth', The World Bank, 2007 and 'India's Emergence as a Global R&D Center', R.M.Mitra, Swedish Institute for Growth Policy Studies, 2007 were a major source of data, analysis and insights which have not been effectively acknowledged in the essay.

British officials, either a governor or a chief commissioner, who were appointed by the Viceroy. Princely states were ruled by local, hereditary rulers, who acknowledged British sovereignty in return for local autonomy. British India had 15 provinces: Ajmer-Merwara, Assam, Baluchistan, Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, Central Provinces and Berar, Coorg, Delhi, Ma-

dras, Northwest Frontier, Orissa, Punjab, Sind, and United Provinces. British India had hundreds of princely states, which differed in size, and with wide variation in population. Most of the princely states were under the authority of a British political agent responsible to the governor of a province, but the four largest princely states, Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore, and

Rank of States (categorywise)

Rank	Population	Area	Density	Literacy	SC	S
1	UP.....	Rajasthan	Delhi.....	Kerala	UP.....	M
2	Maharashtra.....	MP	Chandigarh.....	Mizoram	WB.....	Maharashtra
3	Bihar.....	Maharashtra	Puducherry.....	Lakshadweep	Bihar.....	Orissa
4	WB.....	AP	Lakshadweep.....	Goa	AP.....	Gujarat
5	AP.....	UP	Daman & Diu.....	Chandigarh	TN.....	Rajasthan
6	TN.....	J&K	WB.....	Delhi	Maharashtra.....	Jharkhand
7	MP.....	Gujarat	Bihar.....	A&N Is.	Rajasthan.....	Chhattisgarh
8	Rajasthan.....	Karnataka	Kerala.....	Puducherry	MP.....	A
9	Karnataka.....	Orissa	UP.....	Daman & Diu	Karnataka.....	W
10	Gujarat.....	Chhattisgarh	Punjab.....	Maharashtra	Punjab.....	Karnataka
11	Orissa.....	Tamil Nadu	TN.....	HP	Orissa.....	Assam
12	Kerala.....	Bihar	Haryana.....	TN	Haryana.....	Meghalaya
13	Jharkhand.....	West Bengal	D&NH.....	Tripura	Gujarat.....	Nagaland
14	Assam.....	Arunachal	Goa.....	Uttarakhand	Jharkhand.....	J&K
15	Punjab.....	Jharkhand	Assam.....	Manipur	Kerala.....	Tripura
16	Haryana.....	Assam	Jharkhand.....	Punjab	Chhattisgarh.....	Mizoram
17	Chhattisgarh.....	HP	Maharashtra.....	Gujarat	Delhi.....	Bihar
18	Delhi.....	Uttarakhand	Tripura.....	Sikkim	Assam.....	Manipur
19	J&K.....	Punjab	AP.....	WB	Uttarakhand.....	Arunachal
20	Uttarakhand.....	Haryana	Karnataka.....	Haryana	HP.....	T
21	HP.....	Kerala	Gujarat.....	Karnataka	J&K.....	Kerala
22	Tripura.....	Meghalaya	Orissa.....	Nagaland	Tripura.....	Uttarakhand
23	Meghalaya.....	Manipur	MP.....	Chhattisgarh	Chandigarh.....	U
24	Manipur.....	Mizoram	Rajasthan.....	MP	Puducherry.....	D&NH
25	Nagaland.....	Nagaland	Uttarakhand.....	Assam	Manipur.....	Sikkim
26	Goa.....	Tripura	Chhattisgarh.....	Orissa	Sikkim.....	U
27	Arunachal.....	A&N Is.	Nagaland.....	Meghalaya	Goa.....	Lakshadweep
28	Puducherry.....	Sikkim	HP.....	AP	Meghalaya.....	A&N
29	Chandigarh.....	Goa	Manipur.....	Rajasthan	Arunachal.....	Daman & Diu
30	Mizoram.....	Delhi	Meghalaya.....	D&NH	Daman & Diu.....	G
31	Sikkim.....	Puducherry	J&K.....	UP	D&NH.....	Punjab
32	A&N Is.....	D&NH	Sikkim.....	J&K	Nagaland.....	Chandigarh
33	D&NH.....	Chandigarh	A&N Is.....	Arunachal	Mizoram.....	Haryana

Facts about India

•Standard time: 82°30' E •Least Populous District: Yanam •Most Literate District : Aizawl •Least literate state: Bihar-47% •Most densely populated State: i. WB, ii. Bihar, iii. Kerala •Most literate State: i. Kerala-90.86%, ii. Mizoram-88.60% •Largest State (areawise): Rajasthan •Smallest State: Goa •Most Populous State: UP •Least Populous State: Sikkim •Southern most point: Indira Point •Max. N-S distance : 3,214 km •Max. E-W distance: 2,933 km •Golden Quadrilateral connecting 4 metros: distance: 5846 km • Major Ports on coastline : 12 (181 others).

governed by a Rajpramukh. They were Hyderabad, Saurashtra, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU), and Rajasthan.

The Part C states (ten) included both former princely states and provinces. They were governed by a chief commissioner. The Part C states included Delhi, Kutch, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur, Coorg, Bhopal, Manipur, Ajmer, and Tripura. J&K had special status until 1957. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands was a territory, ruled by a governor appointed by the Indian president.

The French enclaves of Pondicherry, Yanam, Karaikal, and Mahe, were administered by India after 1954, formally becoming a Union Territory in 1962. Dadra and Nagar Haveli was occupied by India in 1954, and Goa, Daman, and

Diu in 1961, and they subsequently became UTs.

In 1953, the Telugu-speaking portion of Madras state voted to become the new state of Andhra Pradesh, the first of India's linguistic states.

In 1956, when the States Reorganisation Act took effect, the distinction between part A, B, and C states was gone, and instead state boundaries were drawn along linguistic lines. The new states, mostly the former Part A states, were Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, MP, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, and UP. Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Pondicherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands became Union Territories. The remainder of the states were merged into the new states or UTs.

Several new states and UTs were created out of existing states since 1956. Haryana was created in 1966 out of Punjab. The UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland were created out of Assam. In 2000, 3 new states were created; Jharkhand was created out of Bihar, Chhattisgarh out of MP, and Uttarakhand out of UP. The Kingdom of Sikkim was annexed to India as a state in 1975. In addition, several Union Territories have become states, namely Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland.

Before 1947

The British India, was made up of two types of states, the Provinces and the Princely states. Provinces were ruled directly by

Mango, Milk, Rice and Sugar from India

India is the largest producer of mango, banana, milk, dairy products, coconuts, cashew nuts, ginger, turmeric and black pepper. It is also the second largest producer of rice, wheat, ground nuts, sugar, fruits and vegetables.

Jammu and Kashmir, were directly under the authority of the Governor-General of India. The Portuguese and the French had territories in India: Portuguese occupied Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, while French had 5 enclaves - Chandernagore, Yanam, Pondicherry, Karaikal, and Mahe,

India and Pakistan, in 1947, divided

its provinces and princely states along religious lines. Hyderabad's Muslim ruler tried to remain independent, but the intervention of the Indian army made Hyderabad a part of India. India and Pakistan contested for control of the princely state of J&K because the state had a Muslim majority, but its Hindu ruler acceded to India.

Stem Cell Research

According to Department of Biotechnology (DOB), Government of India, over 30 institutions, hospitals and industry are involved in stem cell research in India. Clinicians and scientists are collaborating in a few institutions.

In the review, DOB noted that stem cells are routinely used to repair corneal surface disorders at L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad. Christian Medical College, Vellore has established technology to collect, isolate and purify stem cells for haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. An institution set up by industry has characterized 10 stem cell lines, including two neuronal cell lines. The National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, which received one cell line, has its research focus on embryonic stem cells; haematopoietic stem cells; treatment of leukaemia; sickle cell anaemia and skin and tissue engineering.

Though currently the annual investment for stem cell research in India is only very modest, at a few million US\$, the Central Government has plans to create centres of excellence, generate adequate human embryonic stem cell lines and to develop human resource through training, short and long term overseas fellowships etc. to support this nascent field.

Medical specialists believe that they

can use the unlimited potential of stem cells to return memory to Alzheimer's patients, to enable wheel-chair bound patients to walk or to replace damaged skin of patients. The trick lies in tweaking the cells to develop into desired types.

In 1998, scientists at the University of Wisconsin isolated and cultured human embryonic stem cells. This year scientists at the Universities of Granada and Leon confirmed that they can use stem cells from human umbilical cord blood to treat liver diseases.

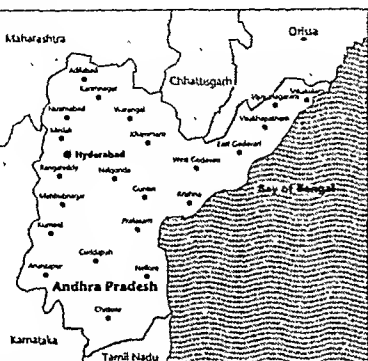
In August 2008, researchers from Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital in Boston, USA used a new method to re-programme ordinary cells from patients with ten incurable genetic diseases and conditions. These virtually immortal cells may be grown in the lab; researchers can closely watch the progress of the diseases; it offers an opportunity to develop treatment for them.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued stringent guidelines for stem cell research and therapy in India in November 2007. The guidelines prescribe the setting up of National Apex and Institutional Committees for Stem Cell Research and Therapy (NAC/IC-SCRT).

K.S.P.

1. Andhra Pradesh

Date of Formation: 1 Oct. 1953
Andhra Part A state created from part of
Madras; 1 Nov. 1956 Andhra Pradesh
state.



Area: 2,75,069 sq. km.

Capital: Hyderabad.

Neighbouring States/UT: Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Sea: Bay of Bengal.

Population: 76,210,007; **Males:** 38,527,413; **Females:** 37,682,594; (a) **Population Density:** (persons per sq. km.): 277 (b) **Sex Ratio:** (Females per 1000 Males): 978. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 57 ('05). **SC:** 12,339,000 (16.19%), **ST:** 5,024,000 (6.5%). **Literacy:** (%): 50.47; **Males:** 70.32; **Females:** 50.43. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs. 26211.

No. of Districts: 23

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Rayalaseema Region			
Anantapur	19,130	36,40,478	Anantapur

Chittoor	15,152	37,45,875	Chittoor
Cuddapah	15,359	26,01,797	Cuddapah
Kurnool	17,658	35,29,494	Kurnool

Andhra Region

E. Godavari	10,807	48,01,420	Kakinada
Guntur	11,391	44,65,144	Guntur
Krishna	8,734	41,87,841	Machilipatnam
Nellore	13,076	26,68,564	Nellore
Prakasam	17,626	30,59,423	Ongole
Srikakulam	5,837	25,37,593	Srikakulam
Visakhapatnam	11,161	38,32,336	V. Patnam
Vizianagaram	6,539	22,49,254	Vizianagaram
W. Godavari	7,742	38,03,517	Eluru

Telangana Region

Adilabad	16,128	24,88,003	Adilabad
Hyderabad	217	38,29,753	Hyderabad
Karimnagar	11,823	34,91,822	Karimnagar
Khammam	16,029	25,78,927	Khammam
Mahaboobnagar	18,432	35,13,934	nagar
Medak	9,699	26,70,097	Sangareddy
Nalgonda	14,240	32,47,982	Nalgonda
Nizamabad	7,956	23,45,685	Nizamabad
Ranga Reddy	7,493	35,75,064	Hyderabad
Warangal	12,846	32,46,004	Warangal

Villages: 26,613; **Towns:** 210

Governor: ND Tiwari

CM: Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature - Bicameral Assembly Seats: 294 (excluding nomination) (Reserved: SC-39, ST-15); Legislative Council: 90; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 42 (Gen 34 + SC6+ST2); Rajya Sabha Seats: 18.

Main Political Parties: Indian National Congress, Telugu Desam Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party...

Seat of High Court: Hyderabad [Kur-

Santhosha, Harita, Swarna State

Actor Chiranjeevi, who entered politics promised to build a Santosha Andhra Pradesh. CM Rajasekhara Reddy promised Harita Andhra Pradesh. Chandrababu Naidu had dreamt of a Swarna Andhra Pradesh.

rice, maize, millet, wheat, pulses, sugarcane, ginger and oilseeds. Arunachal is also ideal for horticulture and fruit orchards. [Agriculture is the primary driver of the economy. Jhum, the local word for shifting cultivation, which was widely practised among the tribal groups has come to be less practiced. The forest-products are the next most significant sector of the economy]

Transport & Communications: (a) Main Railway Stations: Shalukpong; (b) Airports: Itanagar, Daporijo, Ziro, Nimmu, Tezu, Pasighat.

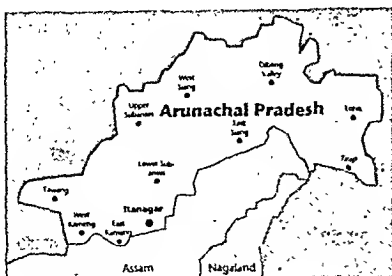
Shopping: Handicrafts, jackets. Sherduken shawls are very popular.

Culture: (a) Dances: Popin, Aji Hiti, Khaning, Cham, War dan; Festivals: Mopin, Solung, Lassar, booz, Dree, Si-Donyi, Rah, Ny Chalo-loku.

Population: 25,655,523; **Males:** 13,777,037; **Females:** 12,878,491; **Urban Population:** 12.72%; (a) **Population Density:** 342; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 932; (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 52 (2005); **SC:** 1,326,000 (5.25%), **ST:** 3,339,555 (12.41%). **Literacy (%):** 53.25; **Males:** 71.23; **Females:** 54.51. **Per Capita Income at current prices (2005-2006):** Rs.13593.

No. of Districts: 23

District	Area	Population in	rank
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China.

Population: 10,97,968; **Males:** 5,18,027; **Females:** 579,941; (a) **Population Density:** 13; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 901. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 37 ('05). **SC:** 6000 (0.56%), **ST:** 705000 (64.22%). **Literacy:** 54.34; **Males:** 63.83; **Females:** 43.53. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.23788.

No. of Districts: 13*

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Changlang	4,662	1,25,422	Changlang
Dibang Valley and Lower Dibang Valley	13,029	57,720	Anini
East Kameng	4,134	57,179	Seppa
East Siang	4,005	89,397	Pasighat
Itanagar and Anjaw	11,402	1,43,527	Tezu
Subansiri	10,135	98,244	Ziro
Kurung Kumey			
Papum-Pare	2,875	1,22,003	Yupia
Tawang	2,172	38,924	Tawang
Tirap	2,362	1,00,326	Khonsa
Upper Siang	6,188	33,363	Yingkiong
Upper Subansiri	7,032	55,346	Daporijo
West Kameng	7,422	74,599	Bomdila
West Siang	8,325	1,03,918	Along

* 3 new districts added: Anjaw, Lower Dibang Valley and Upper Dibang Valley.

Villages: 3,863; **Towns:** 17

Governor: Chief Gen. (Rtd) Joginder Jaswal Singh.

CM: Dorjee Khandu.

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature

- Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 60 (reserved for ST); Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 2; Rajya Sabha Seats: 1

Main Political Parties: Indian National Congress, Bharatya Janata Party, Nationalist Congress Party, Arunachal Congress...

Seat of High Court: Guwahati

Chief Languages: Monpa, Miji, Apatani, Sherdukpen, Nyishi, Apatani, Tagin, Miri, Adi, Digaru Mismi, Idu-Mishmi, Khamti, Miju-Mishmi, Nocte, Tangsa, Wancho.

Major Religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity.

Main Towns: Itanagar, Seppa, Daporijo, Along, Pasighat, Tezu, Khonsa, Yingkiong, Anini, Walong, Tawang, Bomdila, Ziro.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Siang (name of Brahmaputra), its tributaries - Lohit, Subansiri, Dibang, Kameng, Dikrong River (famous for water sports). (b) Mountains: Great Himalaya, Lesser Himalaya, Assam Shiwalik: Dafla Hills, Miri Hills, Mishmi Hills, Abor Hills Peaks: Shallur 4336, Ddaphabum-4578; (c) Passes: Bum La, Tse La, Tunga, Yonggyap, Diphu, Kumjawng, Hpungan, Chaukan, Pangas. (d) Forest: 60% of the state (e) Wildlife: Namdapha NP, Monling NP.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Coal, dolomite, marble, lead, zinc, graphite; (b) Industries: sawmills, plywood (these two trades however have been stopped by law), rice mills, fruit preservation unit and handloom handicrafts; (c) Agriculture: Products: Among the crops grown here are

Treaty of Yandaboo

Arunachal Pradesh is the erstwhile North-East Frontier Agency. The treaty of Yandaboo (Feb. 24, 1826) and the inception of British rule in Assam mark the beginning of its modern history.

No. of Districts: 37*

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Araria	2,797	21,24,831	Araria
Aurangabad	3,389	20,04,960	Aurangabad
Banka	3,020	16,08,778	Banka
Begusarai	1,889	23,42,989	Begusarai
Bhagalpur	2,502	24,30,331	Bhagalpur
Bhojpur	2,337	22,33,415	Arrah(Ar(a)
Buxar	1,634	14,03,462	Buxar
Darbhanga	2,502	32,85,473	Darbhanga
Gaya	4,941	34,64,983	Gaya
Gopalganj	2,009	21,49,343	Gopalganj
Jahanabad	1,569	15,11,406	Jhanabad
Jamui	2,997	13,97,474	Jamui
Kaimur(Bhabhua)	1,840	12,84,575	Bhabua
Katihar	3,010	23,89,533	Katihar
Khagaria	1,486	12,76,677	Khagaria
Kishanganj	1,939	12,94,063	Kishanganj
Lakhisarai	3,302	8,01,173	Lakhisarai
Munger	(1,419	11,35,499	Munger
Sheikhpura	(689)	5,25,137	Shekhpura
Madhepura	1,797	15,24,596	Madhepura
Madhubani	3,478	35,70,651	Madhubani
Muzaffarpur	3,123	37,43,836	Muzaffarpur
Nalanda	2,362	23,68,327	Biharsharif
Nawada	2,498	18,09,425	Nawada
Paschimi			
Champanan	4,250	30,43,044	Bettiah
Patna	3,130	47,09,851	Patna
Purbi Champaran	4,155	39,33,636	Motihari
Purnea	3,202	25,40,778	Purnia
Rohtas	3,838	24,48,762	Sasaram
Saharsa	1,196	15,06,418	Saharsa
Samastipur	2,579	34,13,413	Samastipur
Saran	2,624	32,51,474	Chhapra
Sheohar	(443)	514,288	Sheohar
Sitamarhi	2,628	26,69,887	Sitamarhi
Siwan	2,213	27,08,840	Siwan
Supaul	2,985	17,45,069	Supaul
Vaishali	1,995	27,12,389	Hajipur

* A new district: Arwal

Villages: 39,015; **Towns:** 130.

Governor: R.L. Bhatia

CM: Nitish Kumar

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-

Bicameral: Assembly Seats: 243, Legis.

Council:95; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats:

40 (33+7+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 16

Main Political Parties: Bharatiya Janata Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, INC, NCP, CPI, BSP, CPI(M), Janata D (United), CPI, Samajwaadi Party, Lok Janshakti Party...

Seat of High Court: Patna

Chief Languages: Hindi, Urdu, Awasthi, Magadhi, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Maithili.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity.

Main Towns: Gaya, Bihar Sharif, Bhagal-pur, Purnia, Muzaffarpur, Bettah, Motihari, Siwan, Munger, Bhagalpur, Arrah, Chhapra, Sasaram, Buxar.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Ganga, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Son, Saryu (Ghaghara), Kosi, Kamla, Panar, Saurashtra, Lakhanda, Keul, Ghuari, Pun-pun; (b) Mountains: Bapabar Hills, Mandargiri Hills, Kharagpur, Rajgir, Mirzapur, Kaimur Plateau, Nawada Upland; (c) Plains North Bihar Plains, South Bihar Plains, Saran Lower Son, Bettiah, Motihari, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Saharsa, Aaria, Dharampur, Katihar, Bhagalpur (d) Valmiki Nat. Park Forest : 7.1%.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Ilmenite, Kaolin, Limestone, Mica, fuller's earth; (b) Industries: cotton spinning mills, sugar mills, jute mills and leather industries; (c) Agricultural Products: rice, wheat, maize and pulses, cash crops like sugarcane, oilseeds, tobacco, jute and potato.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 13412.80 km (in 2001) NH-2461.73km, SH-10951.07km; (b) Main Railway Stations: Patna, Muzaffarpur, Samasti-pur, Gaya, Katihar; (c) Airport Patna

The Urban Thrust

By 2011, urban areas in India are expected to contribute about 65 p.c. of GDP. By 2021, the share of urban population will increase to 40 p.c. from 27 p.c. in 2001.

BJP, NCP, Trinamool Congress, Samata Party, Samajwadi Party,

Seat of High Court: Guwahati.

Chief Languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Mishing, Karbi.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism.

Main Towns: Guwahati, Dispur, Tezpur, Silchar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Karimganj, Tinsukia, Diphu, Dhemaj, Nagaon, Marigaon, Barpeta, Goalpara, Dhuburi, Bongaogaon, Nalbari.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Brahmaputra, Manas, Subansiri, Sonai; (b) Mountains: Mikir Hills, Rengma Hills, Barail Range. (c) Wildlife: Kaziranga National Park-Golaghat (famous for rhinos and elephants), Manas NP-Barpeta, Nameri National Park-Sonitpur, Pobitora WS- Morigaon, Dibru Saikhow NP-Tinsukia, Laokhowa WS-Nagaon, Pobha WS-N. Lakhimpur, Orang WS-Sonitpur. Forest 22.21%. Cultivation: 39.44 lakh hectares.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Oil and natural gas, coal, limestone; (b) Industries: Agro-Industries, refinery, cottage, handicraft, silk; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice, jute, tea, cotton, oilseeds, sugarcane, potato, orange, pineapple.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 34,000 km; NH - 22038 km; (b) Railway Length 2,391.76 km.; (c) Main Railway Stations: New Bongaigaon, Maligaon, Dispur, Rangia, Lumding, Jorhat; (d) Airports: LG Bordoioi Airport -Guwahati, Mohanbari-Dibrugarh, Rawlail-Jorhat, Kumbhrigam-Silchar, N. Lakhimpur and Salonibari-Tezpur.

Temples: Kamakhya temple (Nilachal hills), Umananda mandir (Peacock Is.),

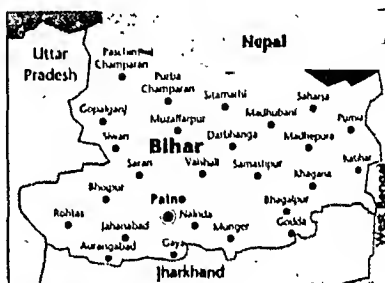
Navagraha mandir (Chitrachal hill).

Shopping: Sualkuchi (famous for muga silk, endi and pat). Handicrafts: bamboo articles, cane, brass and metal crafts. Assam is famous for varieties of silk, bangles, clay dolls, pottery, woodworks, mattresses, etc.

Culture: (a) Dances: Rongali Bihu, Bohag Bihu, Magh Bihu, Kongali; (b) Festivals: Baisakhi.

4. Bihar

Date of Formation: 15 Aug., 1947
Province; 26 Jan. 1950 state (until 1956 : part (A))



Area: 94,163 sq km

Capital: Patna

Neighbouring States: Jharkhand, UP, West Bengal. Country: Nepal.

Population: 8,29,98,509; **Males:** 43,12,43,795; **Females:** 39,75,47,14; (a) **Population Density** 880; (b) **Sex Ratio** 919. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 61 (05). **SC:** 13049000 (15.72%), **ST:** 758000 (0.01%). **Literacy (%)**: 47.00; **Males:** 59.68; **Females:** 33.12. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs.7875.

Eunuchs as Guards

The Bihar Government has plans to post eunuchs as guards in girls' hostels. In 2006, Patna Municipal Corporation used them as tax collectors.

35% land area. Irrigation: 13.28 lakh hectares.

Sanctuaries: Udanti, Pamed, Samar, Sitanadi, Achanakmar, Badalkhole, Omardhs, Bbhoram Deo.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Copper, Coal, Iron, Limestone, Manganese and diamond reserve; (b) Industries: most industries are mineral based like BALCO or Bhilai Steel plant, or forest based; (c) Agricultural Products: Tendu leaves, chironji, harhar, baheda, mahu flowers and sal seeds - predominantly forest products. 80 % people are occupied in agriculture.

Transport & Communications:

(a) Road Length: 34,930 km NH -2,225 km; SH-3,213.5 km (b) Railway Length 1,053km; (c) Main Railway Stations: Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Korba, Raigarh, and Rajnandgaon; (d) Airports: Raipur, (Airstrips: Bilaspur, Bhilai, Jagdalpur, Ambikapur, Korba, Jashpurnagar and Rajnandgaon).

Tourism: Important attractions: Champaran, the birthplace of the Saint Vallabhacharya, with a temple named after him; National parks (3), wildlife sanctuaries (11); a major destination for eco-tourism.

ire: (a) Festivals: Pola, Nawa-issehara, Diawali, Holi, Govardha

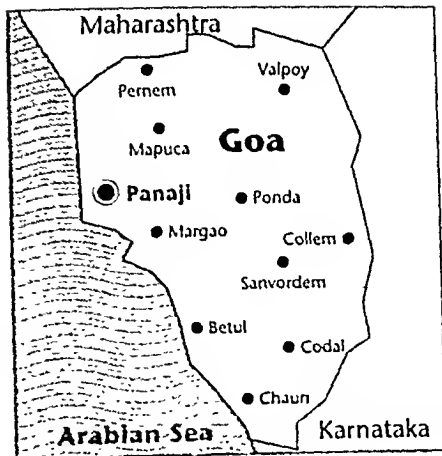
6. Goa

Year of Formation: 30 May, 1987

Area: 3,702 sq.km

Capital: Panaji

Neighbouring States: Karnataka,



Maharashtra. Sea: Arabian Sea

Population: 1,347,668; male: 687,248, female:660,420; Urban Pop: 49.8%; (a) **Population Density:** 364; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 960. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:**16 ('05). **SC:** 24,000 (1.77%), **ST:** 1,000 (0.04%). **Literacy (%)**: 82.01; **Males:** 88.42; **Females:** 75.37. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.70112.

No. of Districts: 2

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Headquarters
North Goa	1,736	7,57,407	Panaji
South Goa	1,966	5,36,591	Margao

Villages: 359; **Towns:** 44

Governor: S.C. Jamir

CM: Digambar Kamat

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 40
Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 2, Pajy Sabha: 1.

Main Political Parties: BJP, INC, United Gomantwadi Democratic Party, NCP, Maharashtrabadi Gomantak Party

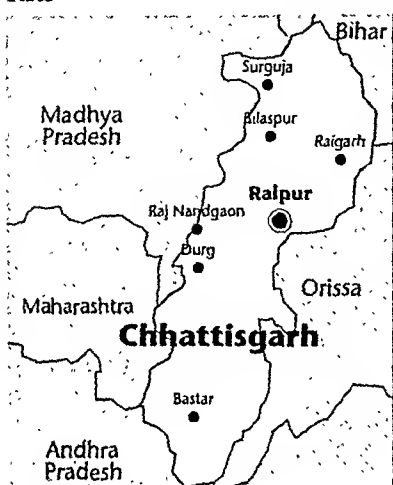
Old Goa

Velha Goa is Old Goa, a former Portuguese capital. On the south bank of the Manjori, it is visited by tourists. Some have a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Francis Xavier, who was here in the mid 16th century.

Culture: (a) Dances: Seraikella; (b) Festivals: Chhath, tribal -Sarhul, Karam

5. Chhattisgarh

Date of Formation: 1 Nov. 2000
State



Area: 1,36,034 sq km

Capital: Raipur

Neighbouring States: MP, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, UP, Jharkhand

Population: 20,833,803; **Males:** 10,474,218; **Females:** 10,369,585; **Urban Population:** 20.08%; (a) Population Density 108; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 990. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 63 ('05). **SC:** 2,419,000 (11.61%). **ST:** 6,617,000 (31.76%). **Literacy (%)**: 654.66; **Males:** 77.38; **Females:** 51.85. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.20151.

No. of Districts: 18

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Headquarters
Bastar	10,376	11,31,453	Jagdalpur
Bilaspur	8,569	19,93,042	Bilaspur
Dantewada	9,055	4,89,233	Dantewada
Dhamtari	4,081	7,03,569	Dhamtari
Durg	8,702	28,01,757	Durg
Janjgir Champa	4,467	13,16,140	Janjgir
Jashpur	6,457	7,39,780	Jashpur
Kanker	6,434	6,51,333	Kanker
Kabirdham (Kawardha)	3,958	5,84,667	Kabirdham (Kawardha)
Korba	5,769	10,12,121	Korba
Koria	5,978	5,85,455	Baikunthpur
Mahasamund	4,963	8,60,176	Mahasamund
Raigarh	6,528	12,65,084	Raigarh
Raipur	13,445	30,09,042	Raipur
Rajnandgaon	8,023	12,81,811	Rajnandgaon
Bijapur	6,555	2,29,832	Bijapur
Narayanpur	6,640	1,10,800	Narayanpur
Surguja	16,034	19,70,661	Ambikapur

Villages: 19,744; **Towns:** 97.

Governor: E.S.L. Narasimhan

CM: Dr. Raman Singh

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature - Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 90
Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 11(5+2+4)
Rajya Sabha Seats: 5

Main Political Parties: BJP, INC, BSP, NCP.

Seat of High Court: Bilaspur

Chief Languages: Chhattisgarhi, Hindi

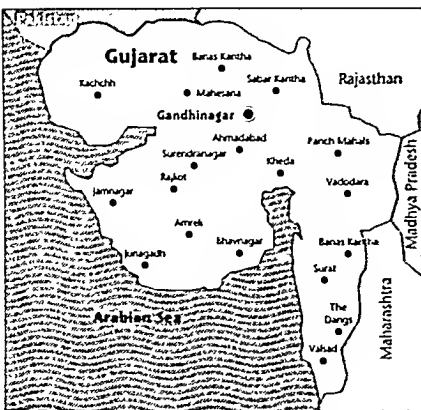
Major Religions: Hinduism

Main Towns: Raipur, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Jagdalpur, Ambikapur, Raj Nandgaon, Durg, Bhilai, Dhamtari

Geography: (a) Rivers: Mahanadi, Indra-vati, Pairi, Hasdo, Son, Sabari; (b) Mountains: Maikala Range, Ramgarh Hills (c) National Park: Indravati NP, Dantewadi, Sanjay NP in Surguja-Koriya Dist, Kangerghati NP-Kanker. Cultivation:

A UNDP Award

Chhattisgarh won the UNDP Award 2007 for its Human Development Report, using Information Technology for the betterment of citizens.



Jamnagar	14,125	19,04,273	Jamnagar
Junagadh	8,846	24,48,173	Junagadh
Kheda	4,219	20,24,216	Nadiad
Kuchchh	45,652	15,83,225	Bhuj
Mahešana	4,384	18,37,892	Mehsana
Narmada	2,755	5,14,404	Rajpipla
Navsari	2,209	12,29,463	Navsari
Panchmahals	5,220	20,25,277	Godhra
Patan	5,730	11,82,709	Patan
Porbandar	2,298	5,36,835	Porbandar
Rajkot ²	11,203	31,69,881	Rajkot
Sabarkantha	7,390	20,82,531	Himatnagar
Surat	7,657	49,95,174	Surat
Surendranagar	10,489	15,15,148	Surendranagar
Vadodara	7,549	36,41,802	Vadodara
Valsad	3,035	14,10,553	Valsad

Capital: Gandhinagar
Neighbouring States/UT: Rajasthan, Maharashtra, MP, Daman-Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli. **Country:** Pakistan. **Sea:** Arabian Sea.

Population: 50,671,017; **Males:** 26,385,577; **Females:** 24,285,440; **Urban Population:** 37.35%; (a) **Population Density:** 258; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 921. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 54 ('05). **SC:** 3,593,000 (7.09%), **ST:** 7,481,000 (14.76). **6. Literacy (%):** 69.14; **Males:** 79.66; **Females:** 57.80. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.34157.

No. of Districts: 25

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Ahmedabad	8,087	58,08,519	Ahmedabad
Amreli	7,397	13,93,918	Amreli
Anand	2,941	18,56,872	Anand
Banaskantha	10,757	25,04,244	Palanpur
Bharuch	6,527	13,70,656	Bharuch
Bhavnagar	9,981	24,69,630	Bhavnagar
Dahod	3,646	16,36,433	Dahod
Dangs	1,764	1,86,729	Ahwa
Gandhinagar	2,163	13,34,455	Gandhinagar

Villages: 18,066; **Towns:** 242
Governor: Nawal Kishore Sharma
CM: Narendra Modi
Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 182
 Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 26 (20+2+4)
 Rajya Sabha Seats: 11
Main Political Parties: BJP, INC, JD...
Seat of High Court: Ahmedabad
Chief Languages: Gujarati
Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam
Main Towns: Ahmedabad International, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Surat, Jamnagar, Kandla, Mehsana, Porbandar, Rajkot.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Sabar Kantha, Mahi, Narmada, and Tapi. Smaller rivers like Banas, Saraswati and Dangs. (b) Mountains: Gir Range, Gir Hills, Girnar Hills. (c) National Parks: Gir National Park-known for Asiatic lions, Pirotan National Park-known for corals and sea turtles, Sanctuary-Rann of Kutch, National Bird Sanctuary, Ratneshwar National Sanctuary-Gujarat.

Porbandar in Indian History

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat. So was his wife Kasturba. Both were born in the year 1869. Kasturba died in 1914, in Pune.

Seat of High Court: Bombay.

A bench of Bombay High court is at Panaji. District Court is in South Goa.

Chief Languages: Konkani and Marathi

Major Religions: Hinduism and Christianity.

Main Towns: Panaji, Margao, Vasco, Ma-pusa, Ponda

Geography: (a) Rivers: Mandovi, Zuari, Terekhol, Chapora and Betul; (b) Mountains: Western Ghats; (c) Lake: Mayem; (d) Caves Khandepur, Arvalem. (e) Wildlife: Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, the Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Molem National Park, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, the Mormugao harbour. (f) Beaches : Bog-malo (water sports), Calangute, Colva, Mandrem, Morjim, Anjuna, Baga, Candolim, Sinquerim, Ma-jorda, Benaulim, Varca, Agonda and Vagator. (g) Waterfalls: The Aravelam waterfalls-adjacent to it is Rudreshwara temple and interesting rock-cut caves, the Mayem lake, the Dudsagar waterfalls-little downward is the Devil's Canyon suitable for trekkers and hikers. **Forest:** 1424 sq km. Irrigation: 43000 hectares.

Economy: Paddy is the main agricultural crop, followed by ragi, cashew and coconut. The state has a rich forest cover of more than 1,424 sq.km. Fishing sustains a work force of 40,000 people. (a) Minerals: Iron ore, manganese, ferro-manganese, bauxite, silica sand; (b) Industries: Mining industries, small scale industries like breweries, fruit canning, fish canning, stoves, automobile batteries, printing press, computer peripherals, zip fastner,

etc.; (c) Agricultural Products: rice, pulses, ragi, groundnut, maize, jowar, bajra, sugarcane, coconut, cashewnut, arecanut, pineapple, mango, banana.

Transport & Communications: Road Length: National highway-224 km, state highways-232 km, district roads-8 km.; (b) Railway Length: Goa is linked with Mumbai, Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram through the Konkani railway; (c) Main Railway Stations: Margao, Canacona, Balli, Verna, Kar-mali, Thivim, Pernem; (d) Airports: Dabolim International (29km from Panaji).; (e) Chief Ports: Mormugao, Dona Paula.

Fort: Tiracol - built by Marathas in 1745, Cabo da Rama-juts into the sea. Cabo-now governor's house, Reis Magos named after Biblical Magi Kings who are believed to have owned this place and the Aguada Fort- built by Portuguese between 1609-1612 - now used as central prison.

Cuisine: Sweets: Bebinca, Dodo Sanna, Delicacies: Bangra, pork vindaloo, sorpotel, acuti, chourisso.

Culture: (a) Dances: Fugdi, Dhal (folk); Dekni, Kumbi, Bandhap (women), Mando (love - east-west mix), Ghod Mondli (Ranes victory over Portuguese), Goff & Hanpet Sword (during Shigmo), Dhangar (Navratri), Kala and Dashavtari. (b) Festivals: Carnival, Shigmotsav (Feb/Mar), Sabado Gordo (Feb), Beach Bonanza (Apr), Konkani Drama Fest (Nov/Dec).

7. Gujarat

Date of Formation: 1 May 1960

Area: 196,024 sq km

Gujarat Dominates Cotton Production

Gujarat produced 6.77 m. bales of cotton in 2005-06. This was 36.61 p.c. of the country's total cotton production. Maharashtra and Punjab were in the second and third places.

Area: 44,212 sq km

Capital: Chandigarh

Neighbouring States: Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan.

Population: 2,11,44,564; **Males:** 1,36,39,53; **Females:** 9,78,06,11; **Urban population:** 29%; (a) **Population density:** 477; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 861. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 60 ('05). **SC:** 0.91000 (19.35%), **ST:** 0. **Literacy (%)**: 57.91; **Males:** 78.49; **Females:** 55.73. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.38832.

No. of Districts: 20

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Ambala	1,574	10,14,411	Ambala
Bhiwani	4,778	14,25,022	Bhiwani
Faridabad	2,151	21,94,586	Faridabad
Fatehabad	2,538	8,06,158	Fatehabad
Gurgaon	2,714	16,60,289	Gurgaon
Hissar	3,983	15,37,117	Hissar
Jhajjar	1,834	8,80,072	Jhajjar
Jind	2,702	11,89,827	Jind
Kaithal	2,317	9,46,131	Kaithal
Karnal	2,520	12,74,183	Karnal
Kurukshetra	1,530	8,25,454	Kurukshetra
Mahendragarh	1,859	8,12,521	Narnaul
Panchkula	898	4,68,411	Panchkula
Panipat	1,268	9,67,449	Panipat
Rewari	1,582	7,65,351	Rewari
Rohtak	1,745	9,40,128	Rohtak
Sirsa	4,277	11,16,649	Sirsa
Sonapat	2,122	12,78,830	Sonapat
Yamunanagar	1,768	10,41,630	Yamunanagar
Mewat	-	-	Nuh

Villages: 6,764; **Towns:** 106

Governor: Dr. A.R. Kidwai

CM: Bhupinder Singh Hooda

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-

Unicameral : Assembly Seats: 90; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats:10 (8+2+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 5.

Main Political Parties: INC, Indian National Lok Dal, BJP, BSP, NCP.

Seat of High Court: Chandigarh.

Chief Languages: Hindi, Punjabi.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity.

Main Towns: Karnal, Rohtak, Panipat, Hisar, Yamunanagar, Kaithal, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sirsa, Rewar, Bhiwani, Narnaul

Geography: (a) Rivers: Ghaggar, Yamuna; (b) Mountains: Lower Shiwalik Range, Rewari Upland, Delhi Range (c) Lakes: Sirajkhanda, Badkhal, Chakarvati. (d) National Park: Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary. It is the first state in India to achieve 100% rural electrification.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Limestone, slate, dolomite, china clay, graphite and quartz; (b) Industries: cement, sugar, paper, cotton, textiles, glassware, brassware, cycles, tractors (largest production in the country), motorcycles, timepieces, automobile tyres and tubes, sanitaryware, television sets, steel tubes, hand tools, cotton yarn, refrigerators, vanaspathi, ghee and canvas shoes; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice, wheat, maize, bajra, cotton, sugarcane, barley potato, and pulses. 75% people are occupied in agriculture. Installed capacity of power: 4033MW in Mar 2006.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 31901 km; NH 1 -Murthal to Delhi border to Karnal; NH 2 - Bal-labgarh to UP border (b) Main Railway Stations: Ambala, Panipat, Kurukshetra and Jakhhal. (Jagadhari-railway workshop). (d) Airports: Pinjore, Karnal, Hissar, Bhiwani, Narnaul.

Gangotri Glacier

According to the Geological Survey of India, between 1935 and 1996, the Gangotri glacier receded at an average of 18.80 m. per year. Other studies say the recession dropped to 17.5 m, during 1971-2004 and 12.10 m. in 2004-06.

NP, Vansda NP.(d) Beaches: Porbandar, Chorwad, Beyt Dwaraka, Somnath and Veraval, Mandvi near Delvada. Irrigation: 64.88 lakh hectares.

Economy: (a) Minerals: petroleum oil, natural gas; (b) Industries: Textiles, inorganic chemicals (caustic soda, soda ash), petro-chemicals, drugs, oil refinery, pharmaceuticals, cement, electronic and electrical goods, machine tools, sugar, oil, etc.; (c) Agricultural Products: Bajra, jowar, maize, rice, wheat, tobacco, cotton, groundnut, isabgol, sugarcane, mangoes, bananas. Installed capacity of power: 8763MW in 2005.

Transport & Communications:

(a) Road Length: 74075km.; (b) Main Railway Stations: Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Valsad, Navsar, Surat, Dahod, Nadiad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Mehsana, Himatnagar, Palanpur; (c) Airports: Ahmedabad International, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Surat, Jamnagar, Kandla, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot; (d) Port: Kandla.

Shrines: Modhera Sun temple-Mehsana, Hatheesing Jain Temple, Bhadrashwar-Jain pilgrimage, Shamlaji-famous Vaishnava temple, Jama Masjid, Rani Rupmati mosque, Akshardham temple-made of sandstone, Parsees Fire temple-Udwada.

Historic Places: Patan-remains of Solanki dynasty, Lothal and Dholavira-remains of Harrappan civilisation, Adlaj Vav (world's most famous elaborated well)-Gandhinagar, Rani ki Vav-built by Udayamati (queen of Bhimdeva 1 between 1022 and 1063, Uperkot Fort - built by Yadavas.

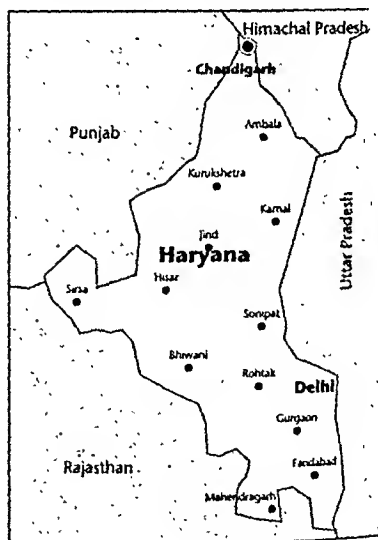
Shopping: Patola saris, bead-em-

broidered ghagras, cholis, torans, tchakla, zari, chandrawas, Namc embroidered with wool, block p textiles; clay painting, hand p fabrics.

Culture: (a) Dances: Garba (Nritya) and, Dandia Ras (Ras Leela, Tippani (women labourers); (b) Fes Janmastami, - Dwarka and Dakor, Ma Jayanti-Palitana, International Kite Fes Jan, Makar Sankranti, Navratri-Sep, Tarnetar fair (Aug-Sept), Madhavra - Porbandar (Mar-April), Ambaji Banaskanta dist, Shamlaji fair, D durbar- March, etc.

8. Haryana

Date of Formation: 1 Nov 1966 St created from part of Punjab



Bidis

Nearly 85% of the bidi tobacco is grown in India. Seventy per cent of tobacco smoked India is in the form of bidis.

Baspa Valley, Govind Sagar; (d) Pass: Rohtang. (e) Parks and Valleys: Kufri-Himalayan Nature Park, Sangla, (f) Lake: Renuka, Rewalsar - Mandi. Irrigation: 5.83 lakh hectares.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Rock salt, slate, gypsum, limestone, barytes, dolomite, pyrites; (b) Industries: IT, Bio-technology, brewery, fruit processing, cement, electronics; (c) Agricultural Products: wheat, maize, rice, barley, vegetable, potato, ginger, soyabean, oilseed, pulses. Fruits: apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, mango, litchi, guava, strawberry. 71% people are occupied in agriculture.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 25500 km. NH-1235 kms.; (b) Railway Length-two narrow gauge lines (Pathankot to Jogindernagar and Kalka to Shimla) and the broad gauge line from Nangal to Talwara, is under construction; (c) Main Railway Stations: Pathankot, Joginder Nagar; (d) Airports: Bhuntar (Kullu Valley), Jubbarhatti (Shimla) and Gaggal (Kangra). Airstrip: Banikhet (being built).

Shrines: Lakshmi Devi-Manimahesh, Paonta Sahib Gurudwara, Jwalamukhi, Jakhu Hanuman temple-Shimla, Bhimkali temple- Sarahan, Bajreshwari Devi temple-Kangra.

Shopping: Pashmina shawls are very famous, rugs, namdas, gudma, are some of the native attractions. McLeod Ganj- Tibetan textiles, Dalhousie- Kulu shawls and Tibetan handicrafts, Lakkar Bazar,

Culture: (a) Dances: Nati; (b) Festivals:

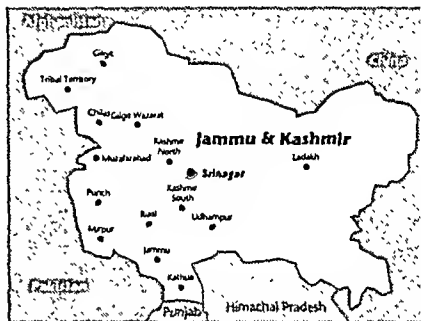
Dussehra of Kulu - begins on Vijay Dashmi Shivratri of Mand (Feb/Mar); Minjar Festival in Chamba; Lavi Fair at Rampur; Renuka Fair (Aug/Sep); Lohri or Maghi, Lahaul and Phulech-festival of flowers (c) Craft: Pashmina and woollen shawls, namdas, gudma, thobis (floor covering made of goat hair), pullas (straw shoes).

10. Jammu & Kashmir

Date of Formation: 26 Oct 1947

Area: 2,22,236 sq km

Capital: Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)



Neighbouring States: Himachal Pradesh, Punjab. Countries - Pakistan, Afghanistan, China.

Population: 10,069,987 (2001)

Males: 5,360,926; **Females:** 4,782,774

Urban Population: 24.88%; (a) **Population Density:** 100; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 900. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 5

('05). **SC:** 770,000 (7.5%), **ST:** 1,106,000 (10.9%). **Literacy (%)**: 55.52; **Males:** 66.60; **Females:** 43. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): NA (2004-05: Rs. 18630)

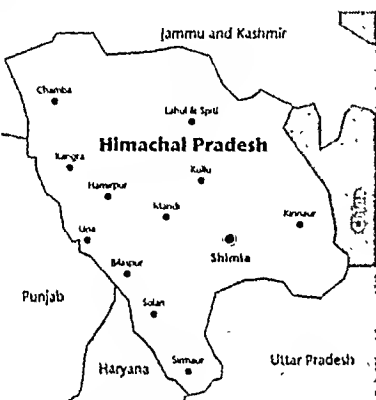
Ladakh and Zaskar

Ladakh and Zaskar are the western highlands of the great Himalayan axis, and predominantly Buddhist. The Trans-Himalaya range has an average altitude of 5000 m. Leh, the capital, is at 3520 m.

Culture: (a) Festivals: Holi, Teej, Diwali, Gugga Pir, Sanjhi, Karca Chauth- for women; Surajkund -famous for popular crafts mela-held in February, Janmashtami fair-Bhiwani, Masani Fair-Gurgaon; (b) Crafts: Moorah making, khes, druggets, unja durries.

9. Himachal Pradesh

Date of Formation: 25 Jan.1971
tate



Area: 55,673 sq km

Capital: Shimla

Neighbouring States: J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand. Country: China.

Population: 60,77,900; **Males:** 3,087,940; **Females:** 2,989,960; **Urban Population:** 9.79%; (a) **Population Density:** 109; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 970 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 49 (2005). **SC:** 1,502,000 (24.72%), **ST:** 145,000 (4.02%). **Literacy (%):** 76.48; **Males:** 85.35; **Females:** 67.42. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-

2006) : Rs.33805.

No. of Districts: 12

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Bilaspur	1,167	3,40,885	Bilaspur
Chamba	6,528	4,60,887	Chamba
Hamirpur	1,118	4,12,700	Hamirpur
Kangra	5,739	13,39,030	Dharamshala
Kinnaur	6,401	78,334	Reckong Peo
Kullu	5,503	3,81,571	Kullu
Lahaul & Spiti	13,835	33,224	Keylong
Mandi	3,950	9,01,344	Mandi
Shimla	5,131	7,22,502	Shimla
Sirmaur	2,825	4,58,593	Nahan
Solan	1,936	500,557	Solan
Una	1,540	4,48,273	Una

Villages: 17,495; **Towns:** 57

Governor: Justice Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje

CM: Prem Singh Dhumal

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature- Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 68; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 4 (3+1+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 3

Main Political Parties: INC, BJP, Himachal Vikas Congress, Lok Jan Shakti Party, Loktantrik Morcha Himachal Pradesh.

Seat of High Court: Shimla

Chief Languages: Pahari, Hindi, Punjabi, Kinnauri.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam.

Main Towns: Shimla, Mandi, Dharamshala, Kullu, Manali, Bilaspur, Chamba, Kye-lang, Kalpa, Kangra

Geography: (a) Rivers: Ravi, Beas, Chenab, Satluj, Yamuna; (b) Mountains: Great Himalaya, Punjab Himalaya, Suket Hills, Shimla Hills, Shiwalik Range, Mussoorie Range, Nag Tibba Range; (c) Lake/Valley: Kangra Valley, Mahasu Valley, Rampur Valley, Spiti Valley, Lahul Valley,

The Mother of Public Health Problems

Alcohol is the mother of all public health problems in India, says Health Minister A Ramadoss. Alcohol users are increasing and the number of addicts requiring help is piling up. More women are taking to liquor in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa and AP.

Culture: (a) Dances: Ruf (women-dance and heroic), Kud (Dogra men), Nis Gumpa; (b) Festivals: Assuj, Lohri, h Sankranti, Bahu Mela in Jammu, Mela ar, Mela Pat; Id-ul-fitr, Id-ul-Zzuha, Id lad-un-Nabi, Meraj Alam in Kashmir, Jharram, Hemis in Ladakh.

11. Jharkhand

Date of Formation: 15 Nov 2000
State created from part of Bihar)



Area: 79,714 sq km

Capital: Ranchi

Neighbouring States: Bihar, UP, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal.

Population: 26,909,428; **Males:** 13,885,037; **Females:** 13,060,792; **Urban Population:** 22.25%; (a) **Population Density:** 338; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 941. (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 50 ('05). **SC:** 3,189,000 (11.84%), **ST:** 7,087,000 (26.30). **Literacy (%):** 53.56, **Males:** 67.30; **Females:** 38.87. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs.19066.

No. of Districts: 24*

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Headquarters
Bokaro	2,861	14,54,416	Bokaro
Chatra	3,706	6,12,713	Chatra
Deoghar	2,479	9,33,113	Deoghar
Dhanbad	2,075	19,49,526	Dhanbad
Dumka	3,716	9,50,853*	Dumka
Gathwa	4,044	8,01,350	Garhwa
Giridih	4,887	14,96,189	Giridih
Godda	2,110	8,61,182	Godda
Gumla	5,321	7,07,555*	Gumla
Hazaribagh	4,519	18,36,068	Hazaribagh
Kodarma	1,311	3,94,763	Kodarma
Lohardaga	1,491	2,88,886	Lohardaga
Pakur	1,806	5,64,253	Pakaur
Palamau	4,015	11,82,770*	Daltonganj
Paschim			
Singhbhum	5,290	10,80,780*	Chabasa
Purbi Singhbhum	3,553	16,13,088	Jamshedpur
Ranchi	4,963	22,14,088	Ranchi
Sahebganj	1,706	7,36,835	Sahebganj
Latehar	3,660	4,67,071	Latehar
Jamtara	1,802	5,44,856	Jamtara
Seraikela Kharsawan	2,725	7,07,175	Seraikela
Simdega	3,756	4,46,421	Simdega
Ramgarh	1,211	8,39,482	Ramgarh
Khunti	2,611	4,34,819	Khunti

* as found in NIC website

Villages: 29354; **Towns:** 152

Governor: Syed Sibtey Razi

CM: Shibu Soren

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature- Unicameral : Assembly Seats: 81; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 14 (8+1+5); Rajya Sabha Seats: 6

Main Political Parties: BJP, INC, NCP, IMM, RJD, JD- United, All India Forward Block, CPI-ML, Jharkhand Students Union, Jharkhand Party...

Seat of High Court: Ranchi

Chief Languages: Hindi, Urdu, Kurmati, Santhali, Ho, Kuruk, Bengali.

Pashmina Sheep Hit by Snowfall

The severe snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir has threatened not only residents, but also the highly endangered Pashmina sheep - its fleece is used to make the famous Pashmina shawls. The sheep in Chathang area were starving with no fodder available.

of Districts:14

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Anantnag	3,984	11,70,013	Anantnag
Badgam	1,371	6,32,338	Badgam
Baramula	4,588	11,66,722	Baramula
Doda	11,691	6,90,474	Doda
Jammu	3,097	15,71,911	Jammu
Kargil	14,036	1,15,227	Kargil
Kathua	2,651	5,44,206	Kathua
Kupwara	2,379	6,40,013	Kupwara
Leh	82,665	1,17,637	Leh
Pulwama	1,398	6,48,762	Pulwama
Poonch	1,674	3,71,561	Poonch
Rajauri	2,630	4,78,595	Rajauri
Srinagar	2,228	11,83,493	Srinagar
Udhampur	4,550	7,38,965	Udhampur

includes 37,555 sq km under illegal occupation
China.

Villages: 6,417; Towns: 75

Governor: N.N. Vohra

President's Rule

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-
Bicameral: Assembly:87 (originally 100
of which 10 parts of it are illegally under POK);
Legislative Council: 36. Parliament-Lok
Sabha Seats: 6; Rajya Sabha Seats: 4

Main Political Parties: Jammu
and Kashmir National Conference; INC,
People's Democratic Party, J&K National
Front Party, CPI-M, J&K Awami League,
Democratic Movement, BSP, BJP...

Seat of High Court: Srinagar and
Jammu

Chief Languages: Urdu (official),
Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahari, Balti, Ladakhi,
Punjabi, Gurji, Dadri

Major Religions: Islam, Hinduism,
Buddhism

Main Towns: Srinagar, Jammu, Leh,
Anantnag, Baramula, Pulwama, Poonch,
Doda, Udhampur

Geography: Location (degrees) :

32.15&37.05N-72.35&83.20E (a) Rivers:
Chenab, Jhelum, Zaskar, Indus, Suru,
Nubra and Shyok; (b) Mountains: (divided
into 4 regions) Khandi Belt -Greater
Himalayas, Great Karakoram, Trans-
Himalaya; Siwalik range- Zaskar range,
Kunlun; Kashmir Valley -Pirpanjal range;
Tibetan tract- Ladakh range; (c) Lakes
Wular, Achar, Dal, Pangong, Moriri, and
Kar. (Mountain Lakes-Satsar, Vishansar,
Kishansar, Gadsar, Gangabal); (d) Pass
Zoji La pass; (e) Range Pir Panjal, Great
Himalaya, Zaskar, Ladakh, Stok

Ladakh is also called 'Little Tibet' and
sometimes 'the last Shangri La.' This
region is marked by Buddhist monasteries
(gompas), and forts. Hemis Gompa-Leh
offers some tough mountain treks to
Zaskar valley-Pangong Lake-Tso Moriri
Lake. The highest point there is at Zoji
La pass.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Mica, fire clay,
limestone, kaolin, bauxite; (b) Industries:
Handicrafts, carpet, wood carving, shawl-
making; (c) Agricultural Products: Paddy,
maize, wheat, gram, bajra, jowar, barley,
fruits like apple, and walnuts.80% people
depend on agriculture.

Transport & Communications: (a)
Road Length 15012 km.; (b) Main Railway
Stations: Jammu; (Jammu-Udhampur
railwayline is under construction which
will be extended to Srinagar and Baram-
ulla) (c) Airports: Srinagar International,
Jammu, Leh.

Shopping: Kashida embroidery, sonzi
-fine needle work, and chikendozi-hook-
work-jalakdozi-rafookari-Pashmina and
kani shawls, silver jewellery, etc.

Top Spot for Billionaires

India's emerging economic clout has made it Asia's top spot for billionaires with
its 40 richest business people worth a collective \$170 billion, according to leading
American business magazine Forbes.

Bangalore Rural	5,815	18,81,514	Bangalore
Belgaum	13,415	42,14,505	Belgaum
Bellary	8,450	20,27,140	Bellary
Bidar	5,448	15,02,373	Bidar
Bijapur	10,494	18,06,918	Bijapur
Chamarajanagar	5,101	9,65,462	Ch.nagar
Chickmagalur	7,201	11,40,905	Chickmagalur
Chitradurga	8,440	15,17,896	Chitradurga
Dakshina Kannada	4,560	18,97,730	Mangalore
Davangere	5,924	17,90,952	Davanagere
Dharwad	4,260	16,04,253	Dharwad
Gadag	4,656	9,71,835	Gadag
Gulbarga	16,224	31,30,922	Gulbarga
Hassan	6,814	17,21,669	Hassan
Haveri	4,823	14,39,116	Haveri
Kodagu	4,102	5,48,561	Madikeri
Kolar	8,223	25,36,069	Kolar
Koppal	7,189	11,96,089	Koppal
Mandya	4,961	17,63,705	Mandya
Mysore	6,854	26,41,027	Mysore
Raichur	6,827	16,69,762	Raichur
Shimoga	8,477	16,42,545	Shimoga
Tumkur	10,598	25,84,711	Tumkur
Udupi	3,880	11,12,243	Udupi
Uttara Kannada	10,291	13,53,644	Karwar
Ramanagara	-	-	Ramanagara
Chikkabellapura	-	-	Chikkabellapura

Villages: 27,481; **Towns:** 270

Governor: Rameshwar Thakur

CM: B.S. Yediyurappa

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-

Bicameral: Assembly Seats 224, Legislative Council- 75; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 28 (24+4+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 12

Main Political Parties: BJP, INC, JD (S), JD (U), CPI-M, Kannada Nadu Paksha, Kannada Chalarali Vatal Paksha

Seat of High Court: Bangalore

Chief Languages: Kannada

Major Religions: Hindu, Islam, Christianity

Main Towns: Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwad, Hubli, Raichur, Bellary, Shimoga, Mangalore, Madikeri, Mysore,

Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Hassan, D van-gere.

Geography: Location(degrees): 11.3 & 18.14 N-74.12&78.10. (a) River Krishna, Tunga-bhadra, Cauvery, Kaban (b) Mountains: Western Ghats, Chitradurga Hills, Tumkur-Closepet Hills, Mysore Plateau, Biligiri Rangan Hills, Nandi Hills, Gokak Hills, Badami Hills. (c) National Park: Bandipur Wildlife Sanctuary

Economy: (a) Minerals: Gold silver iron ore, copper, chromite, magnesite, corundum, gamet, limestone; (b) Industries: Aircraft, electronics, software, telecom equipment, alloy steel, machine tools, watches, porcelain, automobiles, etc.; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice, jowar, bajra, ragi, maize, groundnut, sunflower, mulberry, coconut, Potato, grapes, watermelon, etc. 46% people are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Horticulture: 15.81 lakh hectares. Installed capacity of power: 5836MW. Rural electrification: 100%. Software exports: 35 % of India's exports.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 1,17,972 km.; NH-3967 km; SH-9590 km (b) Railway Length: 3172 km. The Konkan Railway, the new rail link between Mumbai and Mangalore was dedicated to the nation on May 1, 1998; (c) Main Railway: Stations Bengaluru, Mysore, Tumkur, Hosur, Hassan, Mandya, Bellary, Hubli, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Dharwad; (d) Airports: Bangalore, Belgaum, Mangalore, Hubli and Devenhalli (2007); (e) Port: New Mangalore port is the main all-weather seaport.

Adventure Sports: Ramanagaram-rock climbing-50 km from Bangalore,

6000 Schools

The Government plans to set up more than 6000 schools and 600 Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country during the 11th Plan. This will ensure that there is at least one school in every block.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism

Main Towns: Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Bokaro, Chaibasa, Chatra, Jharkhand, Garwa, Giridih

Geography: (a) Rivers: Sankh, South, Damodar, Subarnarekha, Barakat; (b) Mountains: Chotanagpur Plateau, Hazaribagh Plateau, Rajmahal Hills, Paraspath (1366m); (c) Reservoir: Tilaiya, Konar, Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar (d) National Park: Palamau NP, Hazaribagh NP. Cultivation: 18 lakh hectares. Irrigation: 8% of total area. Forest: 18423 sq km.

Economy: Jharkhand's economy is sustained by mining and heavy industry. It is India's second most important source of coal, mining 26 per cent of the total. Minerals, Jharkhand is probably India's richest state. Jharkhand has rich reserves of iron ore and coal and several industries. The two major steel plants of India are located in Jharkhand: at Jamshedpur and Bokaro. (a) Minerals: iron ore and coal; (b) Industries: steel, mining, heavy industries.

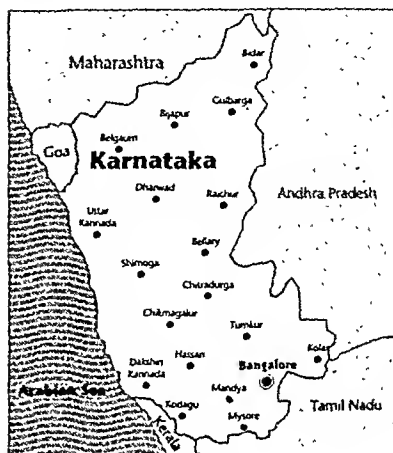
Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 4,311km, including 1,500km NH and 2,711km SH; (b) Main Railway Stations: Ranchi, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Muri, Deogarh; (c) Airports: Ranchi, Jamshedpur.

Tourism: Attractions include Deogarh, Rameswara Temple, a complex of 22 temples, Parvati Temple, the highest hill and the chariot-shaped Sun temple.

Culture: (a) Dances: Chhau; (b) Festivals: Chhath, Diwali, Id, Buddha Purnima, Dussehra Puja. Tribal Festivals: Sarhul, Sohrai, Sagra and Dasai.

12. Karnataka

Date of Formation: 15 Aug 1947
Mysore state (1950-56: part (B)); 1 Nov 1973 Renamed Karnataka



Area: 1,91,791 sq km

Capital: Bengaluru

Neighbouring States: Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, AP, Tamil Nadu. Sea: Arabian Sea.

Population: 52,850,562; **Males:** 26,898,918; **Females:** 25,951,644; (a) **Population Density:** 276; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 964; (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 50 ('05). **SC:** 8,564,000 (16.2%), **ST:** 3,464,000 (6.55%). **Literacy (%)**: 66.64; **Males:** 76.10; **Females:** 56.87. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.27291.

No. of Districts: 29

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Headquarters
Bagalkot	6,575	16,51,892	Bagalkot
Bangalore	2,190	65,37,124	Bangalore

Gender Divide in Wages

A male labourer working on casual basis in rural areas earns only Rs. 59.29 per day, whereas a female gets only Rs. 37.97. In urban areas it is much higher - Rs. 80.70 and Rs. 44.57 respectively, according to NSSO.

Seat of High Court: Kochi.

Chief Languages: Malayalam

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity.

Main Towns: Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode, Trissur, Kannur, Kottayam, Kollam, Allapuzha, Palakkad, Malapuram, Pathanamthitta.

Geography: (a) Rivers (km): Periyar-244, Bharatapuzha, also called Nila-209; Pamba -176, Chaliyar-169, Kadaundi & Chalakkudy-130, Achenkovil-128, Kalada, Muvatupuzha -121; (Total 44 rivers - out of which 41 are west flowing and 3 eastward - Pambar, Bhawani and Kabani) (b) Mountains (): Highest - Anamala (8841 ft), Karinkulam (8455ft), Mukutti (8330ft), Devimala (8273 ft) Highest Peak-Anamudi 2695 msl. (c) Lakes(sq km): Vembanad - 205, Kayamakulam - 51, Ashtamudi - 50, Anjuthengu - 20. Fresh water lake (sq km) - Shastamcota- 3.7, Vellayni, and Pookat (d) Beaches: Kovalam, Varkala, Vizhinjam, Shankumukham - Trivandrum, Muzhapilan-gad and Payyambalam-Kannur, Kappad-Kozhikode. (e) Hill Stations: Munnar, Nelliampathay. (f) Backwaters: Alapuzha, Kollam, Veli, Kochi, Kumarakom-Kottayam. (g) Wildlife: Eravikulam National Park-known for Nilgiri Tahr, Periyar National Park, Parambikulam National Park, Silent Valley, Peppara National Park. (h) Waterfalls: Athirapally, Vazhachal, Palaruvi.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Ilmenite, Rutile, Kaolin, Limestone; (b) Industries: Coir and cashew are 2 large industries. Handloom and bamboo-based industries are well-developed. Kerala accounts for about 1/3 of India's marine exports. Soft-

ware development and export is picking up; (c) Agricultural Products: The state has developed commercial agriculture more than food crops. Consequently, the state is short of foodgrains. Kerala accounts for 92% of India's rubber, 70% of coconut, 60% of tapioca and almost 100% of lemon grass oil. Kerala is the single largest producer of a number of other crops like banana and ginger, besides tea and coffee in abundance. 50% people engaged in agriculture.

Main Irrigation Projects: Malam-puzha, Chalakkudy, Peechi, Pamba, Periyar, Chittoorpuzha, Kuttiyadi, Neyyar, Chimmini

Main Power Projects: Pallivasal Hy., Chenkulam Hy, Peringalkut Hy., Neriya-mangalam Hy., Paniyar Hy., Sabarigiri Hy., Sholayar Hy. Brahmapuram Diesel, Kanjikode Wind farm, Kozhikode Diesel, Kayamakulam Thermal Power plant.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 1.54 lakh km; (b) Railway Length: 1,148km; (c) Main Railway Stations: Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Chenganur, Thiruvalla, Kottayam, Alapuzha, Ernakulam, Trissur, Palakkad, Kozhicode, Kannur, Kasargod; (d) Airports: Thiruvananthapuram, Nedumbassery (Kochi-India's first private airport, was opened in June, '99), and Karipur. Port: Kochi. (e) Inland waterways: 1687 kms.

Education: The first fully literate municipal town (Kottayam-1989), and district (Ernakulam-1990) in India are in Kerala. In 1991, Kerala became the first fully literate state in India. Literacy among adults: 89.9%.

Wildlife at Thekkady

Periyar wildlife sanctuary at Thekkady encompasses an area of 777 sq.km. and has a 26 sq.km. artificial lake surrounded by evergreen forest and grasslands. It's home to bison, antelopes, elephants, deer and monkeys. Thekkady is the centre inside the park with hotels and a boat jetty.

menardu on Sharavathy-coracle raft-canoeing and wind surfing, Cauvery ing Camp-82 km from Mysore for lers, Kudremukh and Kemman Gundi kking.

Culture: Festivals: Mysore Dussera, aga, Ugadi (Kannada New Year), Diwali, Hunnive, Navaratri, Yellu Amavasya, nzan.

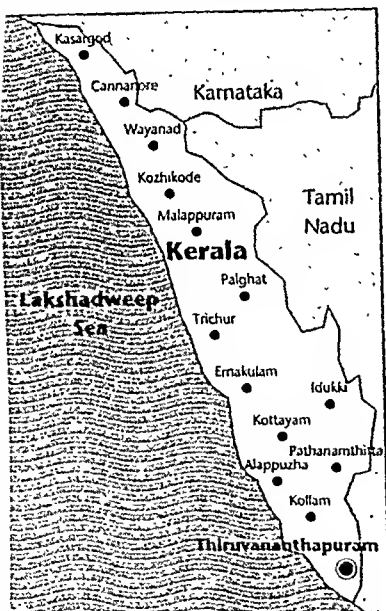
13. Kerala

Date of Formation: 1st Nov. 1956

Area: 38,863 sq km

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Neighbouring States/UTs: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Lakshadweep Is.



Population: 31,841,374; **Males:** 15,468,614; **Females:** 16,372,760; **Urban Population:** 25.97%; (a) **Population Density:** 819; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 1058 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 14 ('05). **SC:** 3,124,000 (9.81%), **ST:** 364,000 (1.14%). **Literacy (%)**: 90.86; **Males:** 94.24; **Females:** 87.72. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs.30668.

No. of Districts: 14

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Alappuzha	1,414	21,09,160	Alappuzha
Ernakulam	3068	31,05,798	Kochi
Idukki	4,358	11,29,221	Painavu
Kannur	2,966	24,08,956	Kannur
Kasargod	1,992	2,04,078	Kasargod
Kollam	2,491	25,85,208	Kollam
Kottayam	2,208	19,53,646	Kottayam
Kozhikode	2,344	28,79,131	Kozhikode
Malappuram	3,550	36,25,471	Malappuram
Palakkad	4,480	26,17,482	Palakkad
Pathanamthitta	2,637	12,34,016	Pathanamthitta
Thiruvananthapuram	2,192	32,34,356	Thiruvananthapuram
Thrissur	3,032	29,74,232	Thrissur
Wyanad	2,131	7,80,619	Kalpetta

Villages: 1,364; **Towns:** 159

Governor: R.S. Gavai

CM: V.S. Achutanandan

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 141 (excluding nomination); Parliament: Lo Sabha Seats: 20 (18+2+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 9.

Main Political Parties: INC, CPI-M Muslim League Kerala State Committee Kerala Congress (M), CPI, JD(S), Revolutionary Socialist Party of Kerala, Kerala Congress, Kerala Congress (B), Kerala Congress (J), Democratic Indira Congress NCP, CMP

Kerala's Colourful Festival of Plenty

Kerala's leading festival 'Onam' which usually falls in August-September is celebrated by all Malayalees. It reminds Keralites of a mythological emperor Mahabali who ruled the land and gave it the most prosperous time.

Chief Languages: Marathi.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, arsi, Christianity, Jainism.

Main Towns: Mumbai,* Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Nanded, Nandubhar, Akola, Aurangabad, Bidar, Gondia, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Kudal, Parbhani, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Wardha.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Godavari, Penganga, Manjira, Bhima, Varna, Panjhra, Wardha, Wainganga, Purna, Dudhna, Pravara, Mula, Ghod, Sina, Tima; (b) Mountains: Ajanta Range, Harishchandra Range, Balaghat Range, Satmala Hills, Gawligarh Hills, Mahabaleshwar, Kalanai; (c) Lakes: Beale, Tansa, Andhra, Mulshi, Koyna Reservoir. (d) National Park: Nawegaon, Pench Taroba.

Sanctuaries: Nagzira, Tansa, Yawal, Doe, Devlagaon, Devlagaon.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Coal, Iron ore, Manganese, Chromite, Bauxite, Oil & Natural Gas; (b) Industries: Major industries are chemicals and allied products, textiles, electrical and non-electrical machinery and petroleum and allied products, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, machine tools, steel and iron castings and plasticware. Santa Cruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ), is a free trade zone for 100 per cent export. India's first gold refinery is at Shirpur. The development of offshore oil fields at Mumbai High and the nearby Bassein North Oil Fields have contributed greatly to the industrial development of the state; (c) Agricultural Products: Main food crops: wheat, rice, jowar, bajra and pulses. Cash crops: cotton, sugarcane, groundnut and tobacco. Alphonso mangoes, Thomson

seedless grapes, Cavendish bananas and soft seeded pomegranates are the state's produce.

Transport & Communications

(a) Road Length: 2.66 lakh km. consisting of 3,710 km. of national highways; 33,405 km. of state highways, 47,920 km. of major district roads, and 93,650 km of village roads (as on March 2002). (b) Railway Length: 5,459 km. of railway routes of which about 77.9% is broad gauge, 83% meter gauge and 13.8% narrow gauge; (c) Main Railway Station. Bombay is now Mumbai and Victoria Terminus (VT) station Chhatrapati Shivaji Railway Terminus. Bandra, Thane, Vasai Khurd, Pune, Solapur, Satara, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Kholapur, Kudal; (d) Airports: Mumbai. There are four airports under the control of International Airport Authority or Airport Authority of India and 3 under the Ministry of Defence. (e) Ports: Mumbai.

Forts: Pratapgadh, Daulatabad, Shivneri, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg, Marol Janjira.

Culture: (a) Dances: Tamasha and Lavni (folk drama); (b) Festivals: Ganesh Chaturthi; (c) Craft: Paithani, Chardakala, Pasodi, Gho-ngodi, Dharwadian brocade sarees, silk-bordered dhoties, himru and bidri work, terracotta pottery, copper and zinc vessels, etc.

16. Manipur

Date of Formation: 21 Jan 1972. State; 15 Oct., 1949 State (from 1950 Part C); 1 Nov 1956 Union Territory.

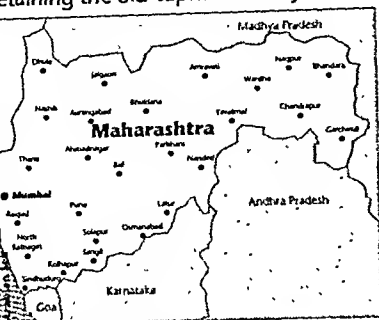
Area: 22,327 sq km

Coal Production

Production of coal in India which stood at 31.30 M.T. in 1950-51 rose to 309.63 M.T. in 2000-01 and 430.85 M.T. in 2007-08.

15. Maharashtra

Date of Formation: The state of Bombay was bifurcated into Maharashtra and Gujarat on May 1, 1960, Maharashtra retaining the old capital Bombay.



Area: 3,07,713 sq km

Capital: Mumbai

Neighbouring States: Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh. Sea: Arabian Sea.

Population: 96,752,247; **Males:** 50,400,596; **Females:** 46,478,031; **Urban Population:** 42.40%; (a) **Population Density:** 315; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 922 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 36 ('05). **SC:** 9,882,000 (10.2%), **ST:** 8,577,000 (8.85%). **Literacy (%)**: 76.88; **Males:** 85.97; **Females:** 67.031. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.37081.

No. of Districts: 35

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Ahmednagar	17,034	40,88,077	Ahmednagar
Akola	5,431	16,29,305	Akola
Amaravati	12,235	26,06,063	Amaravati
Aurangabad	10,106	29,20,548	Aurangabad

Beed	10,692	21,59,841	Beed
Bhandara	3,890	11,35,835	Bhandara
Buldana	9,680	22,26,328	Buldana
Chandrapur	11,417	20,77,909	Chandrapur
Dhule	8,061	17,08,993	Dhule
Gadchiroli	14,477	9,69,960	Gadchiroli
Gondia	5,430	12,00,151	Gondia
Hingoli	4,526	9,86,717	Hingoli
Jalgaon	11,757	36,79,936	Jalgaon
Jalna	7,715	16,12,357	Jalna
Kolhapur	7,692	35,15,413	Kolhapur
Latur	7,166	20,78,237	Latur
Mumbai City	157	33,26,837	Mumbai City
Mumbai (Sub.)	446	85,87,561	Mumbai (Sub.)
Nagpur	9,810	40,51,444	Nagpur
Nanded	10,545	28,68,158	Nanded
Nandurbar	5,035	13,09,135	Nandurbar
Nashik	15,539	49,87,923	Nashik
Osmanabad	7,550	14,72,256	Osmanabad
Parbhani	6,511	14,91,109	Parbhani
Pune	15,637	72,24,224	Pune
Raigad	7,162	22,05,972	Alibag
Ratnagiri	8,196	16,96,482	Ratnagiri
Sangli	8,578	25,81,835	Sangli
Satara	10,475	27,96,906	Satara
Sindhudurg	5,222	8,61,672	Oros
Solapur	(14,886)	38,55,383	Solapur
Thane	9,563	81,28,833	Thane
Wardha	6,311	12,30,640	Wardha
Washim	5,150	10,19,725	Washim
Yavatmal	13,594	24,60,482	Yavatmal

Villages: 41,095; **Towns:** 378

Governor: S.C. Jamir

CM: Vilasrao Deshmukh

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Bicameral: Assembly Seats: 289 (1 nomination); Legislative Council: 78; Legislative Assembly: 288; Parliament Lok Sabha Seats: 48 (41+3+4); Rajya Sabha Seats: 19

Main Political Parties: NCP, INC, Shiv Sena, BJP, CPI-M, Jan Surajya Shakti, Peasant and Workers Party of India, Akhil Bharatiya Sena.

Seat of High Court: Mumbai (benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji)

Bamboo's Status

Bamboo is grass, not tree, says the Confederation of Indian Industry. If it is grass, that will ensure that various restrictions on bamboo's harvest, transit and trade can be removed, and it can be grown on private lands.

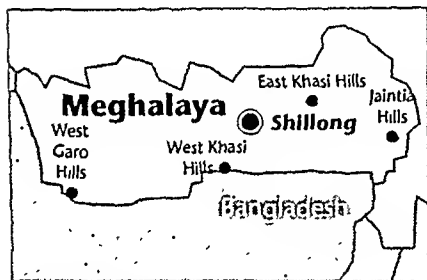
dancers perform acrobatics and the graceful movements of female dancers are delightful.

(a) Dances: Manipuri; (b) Festivals: Dol Jatra, Lai Haraoba, Rasa Leela, Cheiraoba, Ningol Chakouba, Imoinu Irtapa, Gaan-Nagai, Lui-Nagai-ni, Yaoshang (Holi), Mera Houchongba, Kut, Id-ul-Fitr, Christmas.

(c) The favourite sport is polo and Manipur claims to have invented it. Polo is also popular in few other places in Asia.

17. Meghalaya

Date of Formation: 2 Apr 1970
State within Assam; 21 Jan 1972 Separate state



Area: 22,429 sq km

Capital: Shillong

Neighbouring States: Assam. Country: Bangladesh.

Population: 2,318,822; **Males:** 1,176,087; **Females:** 1,142,735; **Urban Population:** 19.63%; (a) **Population Density:** 103; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 975 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 49 ('05). **SC:** 11,000(0.048%), **ST:** 1,993,000 (85.94%). **Literacy (%)**: 62.56; **Males:** 65.43; **Females:** 59.61. **Per Capita**

Income at current prices (2005-2006): Rs.23420.

No. of Districts: 7

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
East Khasi Hills	2,820	6,60,923	Shillong
West Khasi Hills	5,247	2,96,049	Nongstoin
Jaintia Hills	3,819	2,99,108	Jowai
Ri-Bhoi *	2,448	1,92,790	Nongpoh
South Garo Hills *	1,887	1,00,980	Baghmara
West Garo Hills	3,677	5,18,390	Tura
East Garo Hills	2,603	2,50,582	Williamnagar

* created in June 1992.

Villages: 5,782; **Towns:** 16

Governor: Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary

CM: Dr. Dr. Donkumar Roy

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral : Assembly Seats: 60; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 2 (2+0+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 1.

Main Political Parties: INC, NCP, United Democratic Party, Meghalaya Democratic Party, BJP, Hill State People's Democratic Party, Khun, Hyneutrip National Awakening Movement.

Seat of High Court: Guwahati. A High Court Bench is located at Shillong.

Chief Languages: Garo, Khasi, and English.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Christianity

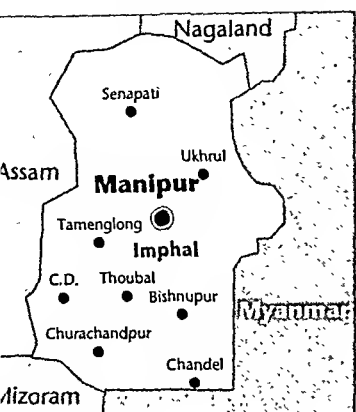
Main Towns: Shillong, Tura, Williamnagar, Nongpoh, Nongstoin, Jowai, Baghmara, Mawphlang

Geography: (a) Rivers: Simsang, Manda, Darming, Ringge, Gamol, Bugi, (Khri, Krishnai, Kapili, Sareswari, Bhogai); (b) Mountains: Garo Hills, Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills; Nokrek Peak.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Sillimanite,

Don Bosco Museum

India's largest indigenous cultural centre the Don Bosco Museum at Mawlai, Shillong is unique. It presents the different cultures of the North-East under one roof.



Capital: Imphal
Neighbouring States: Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland. Country: Myanmar.
Population: 2,293,896*; **Males:** 61,952; **Females:** 1,131,944; **Urban population:** 23.88%; (a) **Population density:** 111; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 978 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 13 ('05). **SC:** 741,000 (2.77%), **ST:** 741,000 (34.20%). **Literacy (%):** 70.53; **Males:** 80.33; **Females:** 60.53. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs. 20326.

No. of Districts: 9

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Headquarters
Bishnupur	496	2,08,368	Bishnupur
Chandel	3,313	1,18,327	Chandel
Churachandpur	4,570	2,27,905	Churachandpur
Imphal East	709	3,94,876	Porompat
Imphal West	519	4,44,382	Lamphelpat
Senapati	3,271	2,83,621	Senapati
Tamenglong	4,391	1,11,499	Tamenglong
Thoubal	514	3,64,140	Thoubal
Ukhrul	4,544	1,40,778	Ukhrul

* includes estimated figures in 2001 census as results of sub-div. were cancelled.

Villages: 2,199; **Towns:** 33
Governor: Dr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu

CM: Okram Ibobi Singh

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature- Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 60; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 2 (1+0+1); Rajya Sabha Seats: 1

Main Political Parties: INC, Federal Party of Manipur, Manipur State Congress Party, CPI, BJP, NCP, Samata Party, Manipur People's Party, Manipur National Conference, Democratic Revolutionary Peoples Party...

Seat of High Court: A permanent bench of the Guwahati High Court, Imphal Bench (functional since 14-3-1992)

Chief Languages: Meiteilon (Manipuri).

Major Religions: Hinduism, Christianity.

Main Towns: Imphal, Thoubal, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Bishnupur, Senapati, Tamenglong, Chandel.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Barak, Manipur; (b) Mountains: West Manipur Hills, Laimatol Range, Letha Range, East Manipur Hills; (d) Lake: Loktak.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Limestone; (b) Industries: Handloom weaving, cottage industries like sericulture, bamboo and cane articles, rice mills, edible oil crushing and leather goods; (c) Agricultural Products: Paddy, wheat, maize.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 7,599 km NH. 53, 39; (b) Main Railway Stations: Jiribam; (d) Airports: Imphal

Culture: Manipuri dancing is one of the classical dances of India. Male

The Cost of Pollution

It is estimated that pollution costs India about 4.5 p.c. of its GDP every year. In industrialised nations, the figure is less than 1-2 p.c.

Seat of High Court: Guwahati. A bench at Aizawl.

Chief Languages: Mizo and English

Major Religions: Christianity

Main Towns: Aizawl, Mamit, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Saiha, Champhai

Geography: (a) Rivers Tlawng (or the Dhaleswari), the Sonai and the Tuivawl; (b) Mountains: Mizoram is a land of hills, the highest point being the Blue Mountain (2165 metres).

Economy: (a) Industries: Handloom, rice mills, flour mills, brick making, bamboo handicrafts, sericulture, electronics; (b) Agricultural Products: Maize and paddy. Pulses, sugarcane, chilly, ginger, turmeric, potato, tobacco, vegetables, banana and pineapple are the other important crops.

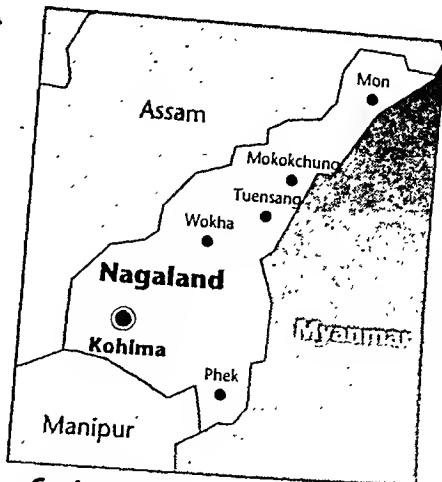
Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 4001.53 km; (b) Main Railway Stations: Bairabi; (c) Airports: Aizawl, Lunglei

Culture: (a) Dances: Bamboo dances, Khantum Solokia, Kuallam, Cheraw Kan, Chheiraw and lam. Chheihlam (recounts heroic deeds around rice beer) and Khuallam (a dance of guests); (b) Festivals: Chapchar ut, Mim Kut (maize fest-Aug-Sept), Pawl ut (harvest-Dec-Jan), Christmas, Easter; (c) Crafts: Puan woven on traditional looms, thi-hi (amber bead necklace), ar-hi (glass bead necklace), shawls, cane and bamboo work, Lunglei, Chintapai, kiria (headgear).

19. Nagaland

Date of Formation: 1st Dec. 1963

Area: 16,579 sq km



Capital: Kohima

Neighbouring States: Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam. **Country:** Myanmar.

Population: 1,988,636; **Males:** 1,047,141; **Females:** 942,895; **Urban Population:** 17.74%; (a) **Population Density:** 120; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 909; (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 18 ('05). **Literacy (%)**: 66.59; **Males:** 71.16; **Females:** 61.46. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : NA (2004-05: Rs. 20998)

No. of Districts: 8*

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Oimaipur	927	3,08,382	Dimapur
Kohima	3,144	3,14,366	Kohima
Phek	2,026	1,48,246	Phek
Mokokchung	1,615	2,27,320	Mokokchung
Mon	1,876	2,59,604	Mon
Tuensang	4,228	4,14,801	Tuensang
Wokha	1,628	1,61,098	Wokha
Zunheboto	1,255	1,54,909	Zunheboto

* 3 new districts: Kiphire, Longleng, and Peren

Village Languages

The Naga languages, which fall in the Tibeto-Burma family, differ from tribe to tribe and sometimes even from one village to the other.

Coal, limestone, dolomite, fireclay, feldspar, quartz, glass sand, sandstone; (b) Industries: Cement: Industrial units are fast coming up. There is a public sector cement factory at Cherrapunjee. Meghalaya's hydro-electric and thermal power potential has been estimated at about 2500 and 1000 megawatts respectively; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice and Maize are the major food crops. Potato, teapata, sugarcane, oilseeds, cotton, jute, mesta, arecanut besides fruits like pineapple, orange, and bananas are the important products. 'Khasi Mandarin' oranges are famous. Area under forest is 950,000 hectares.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 7,860 km of both surfaced and unsurfaced roads; (b) Railway: None; (c) Airports: Umroi, 35km from Shillong

Culture: (a) Dances: Nongkrem at Smit village; Laho (Jaintias); (b) Festivals: Shad Suk Mynsiem - April 2nd week (Khasis); Wangala Oct-Nov (Garos); Behdieng-Khlam at Jowai - July (Jaintias).

18. Mizoram

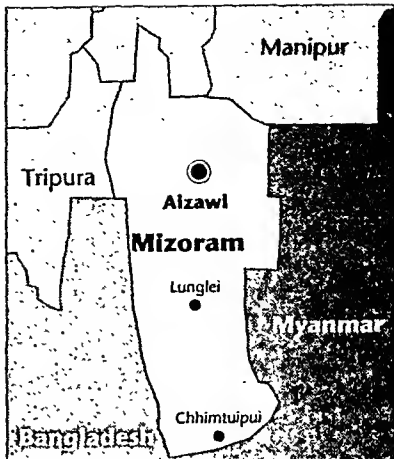
Date of Formation: 20 Feb 1987

Area: 21,081 sq km

Capital: Aizawl

Neighbouring States: Tripura, Assam, Manipur. Country: Myanmar.

Population: 891,058; **Males:** 459,109; **Females:** 4,29,464; **Urban Population:** 49.50%; (a) **Population Density:** 42; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 938 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 20 ('05). **SC:** 0, **ST:** 839,000 (94.46%). **Literacy (%):** 88.80; **Males:** 90.72; **Females:** 86.75.



Per Capita Income at current prices (2005-2006) : NA (2004-05: Rs. 22417)

No. of Districts: 8

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Aizawl	3,576	3,39,812	Aizawl
Champhai	3,186	1,01,389	Champhai
Kolasib	1,283	60,977	Kolasib
Lawngtlai	2,557	73,050	Lawngtlai
Lunglei	4,538	1,37,155	Lunglei
Mamit	3,026	62,313	Mamit
Chhimtuipui	1,400	60,823	Saiha
Serchhip	1,422	55,539	Serchhip

Villages: 707; **Towns:** 22

Governor: Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M.M. Lakhera **CM:** Pu Zoramthanga

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 40 members; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 1(0+0+1); Rajya Sabha Seats: 1

Main Political Parties: Mizo National Front, INC, Mizoram People's Conference, Zoram Nationalist Party, Hmar Peoples Convention, Maraland Democratic Front.

Retail Business

Retail business in India is going to double in the next five years, from \$322 b. in 2006-07 to \$ 600 b. in 2011-12, according to a study by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal. Sea: Bay of Bengal.

Population: 3,680,4660; **Males:** 18,660,570; **Females:** 18,144,090; **Urban Population:** 14.97%; (a) **Population Density:** 236; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 972 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 75 ('05). **SC:** 6082000 (16.53), **ST:** 8145000 (22.13%). **Literacy (%):** 63.08; **Males:** 75.35; **Females:** 50.51. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): NA (2004-05: Rs.16306)

No. of Districts: 30

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Angul	6,375	11,40,003	Angul
Bolangir	6,575	13,37,194	Bolangir
Balasore	3,806	20,24,508	Balasore
Bargarh	5,837	13,46,336	Bargarh
Bhadrak	2,505	13,33,749	Bhadrak
Boudh	3,098	3,73,372	Boudh
Cuttack	3,932	23,41,984	Cuttack
Deogarh	2,940	2,74,108	Deogarh
Dhenkanal	4,452	10,66,878	Dhenkanal
Gajapati	4325	5,18,837	Paralakhemundi
Ganjam	8,206	31,60,635	Chhatrapur
Jagatsinghpur	1,668	10,57,629	Jagatsinghpur
Jajpur	2,899	16,24,341	Jajpur
Jharsuguda	2,081	5,09,716	Jharsuguda
Kalahandi	7920	13,35,494	Bhawanipatna
Kandhamal	8021	6,48,201	Phulbani
Kendrapara	2,644	13,02,005	Kendrapara
Keonjhar	8,303	15,61,990	Keonjhar
Khurda	2,813	18,77,395	Khurda
Koraput	8,807	11,80,637	Koraput
Malkangiri	5791	504,198	Malkangiri
Mayurbhanj	10,418	22,23,456	Bariapada
Nawarangpur	5,291	10,25,766	Nawarangpur
Nayagarh	3,890	8,64,516	Nayagarh
Nuapada	3,852	5,30,690	Nuapada
Puri	3,479	1,502,682	Puri
Rayagada	7,073	8,31,109	Rayagada
Sambalpur	6,657	9,35,613	Sambalpur
Sonepur	2,337	5,41,835	Sonepur
Sundargarh	9,712	18,30,673	Sundargarh

Villages: 47,529; **Towns:** 138

Governor: Murlidhar C. Bhandare

CM: Naveen Patnaik

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 147; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 21 (13+3+5); Rajya Sabha Seats: 10

Main Political Parties: INC, Biju Janata Dal, INC, BJP, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Orissa Gana Parishad, CPI, CPI-M

Seat of High Court: Cuttack

Chief Languages: Oriya

Major Religions: Hinduism, Jainism, Islam

Main Towns: Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Chhatrapur, Puri, Sambalpur, Balangir, Jharsu-guda, Baragarh, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rourkela, Balেশ্বর, Bhadrak, Nabrangpur, Rayagada, Berhampur, Balangir, Phulbani, Dhenkanal, Kendrapara

Geography: (a) Rivers: Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Tel, Pushikulya, Sabari; (b) Mountains: Garhjat Hills, Mahendra Giri; (d) Lake/Reservoir: Hirakud, Balimela, Chilka (The biggest and the most famous lake in Orissa is the Chilka lake. It is 64 km long and 16 to 20 km wide. There are two beautiful islands in the lake namely Parikud and Malud). Hirakud Dam, the fourth largest in the world, on Mahanadi is another attraction. Chilka, the largest brackish water inland lake in Asia, stretches over an area of 1100 sq.km. (d) National Parks: The largest Lion Safari of India, and the only White Tiger Safari in the world, are located on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Chromite, bauxite, dolomite, graphite, iron-ore, coal, copper, kaolin, lead, quartzite, steatite

The Ganga Dynasty

Orissa had its own rulers (Ganga dynasty) in the 7th century A.D. The most brilliant epoch in its history began with Mahasivagupta Yajati II coming to the throne in 795 A.D. King Narasingha Dev built the Sun Temple at Konark.

Villages: 1,278; **Towns:** 9

Governor: K. Shankaranarayanan

CM: Phibiu Rio

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 60; Parliament:Lok Sabha Seats:1; Rajya Sabha Seats:1

Main Political Parties: INC, National Peoples Front, BJP, Nationalist Democratic Movement, JD-U, Samta Party.

Seat of High Court: Guwahati High Court. A bench is located at Kohima.

Chief Languages: Angami, Ao, Naga, Konyak, Lotha, Sangtam, Sema and Chakhe-sang

Major Religions: Hinduism, Christianity

Main Towns: Kohima, Phek, Mon, Wokha, Mokokchung, Tuensang, Zunheboto

Geography: (a) Rivers: Dhansiri, Noyang, Dikhu and Jhanji; (b) Mountains: Namsang, the highest peak, is 3841 m high (c) National Park Intangki, known for the Blythe Tragopan, very colourful bird, found only at Phek.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Nagaland's mineral wealth (coal, limestone, iron, nickel, cobalt, chromium and marble) is immense, though unexplored yet; (b) Industries: Nagas make beautiful decorative materials. Nagaland has achieved remarkable progress in small and medium industries. Today the state has 30 industrial units, and over 300 small-scale industries. The Nagaland Sugar Mill at Dimapur has an installed capacity of 1,000 tonnes per day; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice, vegetable.

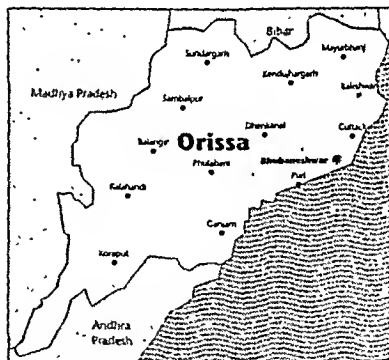
Transport & Communications:

(a) Road Length: 9,860 km; (b) Main Railway Stations: Dimapur; (c) Airports: Dimapur

Culture: (a) Dances: Naga dance and music are intrinsic part of Naga life mostly eulogising bravery, beauty, love and generosity; (b) Festivals: Hornbill festival (1st week of Dec); Sekrenyi of Angamis (Touphema-Kohima, Feb 26-27); Monyu (Pongo-Longleng, Apr 1-3); Moatsu (Chuchuyimlang-Mokokchung, May 1-3); Tokhu Emong, Tuluni - of Semas and Christmas. Aoling festival of Konyaks, Pikhuchak festival of Lothas in Wokha; (c) Crafts: wood carving, hand woven shawl, baskets like Akhi, Akha, Chakhe-sang, Angami jewellery.

20. Orissa

Date of Formation: 15 Aug 1947
Province



Area: 155,707 sq km

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Neighbouring States: Andhra

Rath Yatra

In the Rath Yatra of Orissa, the Raja of Puri, dressed as a humble servant of the gods, ceremonially sweeps the path before the temple chariots. The chariot is drawn by hundreds of men.

No. of Districts: 17*

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Amritsar	5,075	30,96,077	Amritsar
Bhathinda	3,377	11,83,295	Bhathinda
Faridkot	1,472	5,50,892	Faridkot
Fatehgarh Sahib	1,180	5,38,041	Fatehgarh Sahib
Ferozepur	5,865	17,46,107	Ferozepur
Gurdaspur	3,570	2104,011	Gurdaspur
Hoshiarpur	3,310	14,80,376	Hoshiarpur
Jalandhar	2,658	19,62,700	Jalandhar
Kapurthala	1,646	7,54,521	Kapurthala
Ludhiana	3,744	30,32,831	Ludhiana
Mansa	2,174	68,87,558	Mansa
Moga	1,672	8,94,854	Moga
Muktsar	2,596	7,77,493	Muktsar
Nawan Shehar	1,258	5,87,468	Nawan Shehar
Patiala	3,627	18,44,934	Patiala
Rupnagar	2,117	11,16,108	Rupnagar
Sangrur	5,021	2,000,173	Sangrur

* 3 new districts: Barnala, Mohali and Tarn Taran.

Villages: 12,278; Towns: 157

Governor: Gen. (Retd.) S.F. Rodrigues

CM: Sardar Prakash Singh Badal

Legislative Bodies: Legislature-Unicameral; Assembly Seats: 117; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 13 (10+3+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 7

Main Political Parties: INC, Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal), BJP, CPI.

Seat of High Court: Chandigarh

Chief Languages: Punjabi

Major Religions: Sikh, Hinduism, Christianity

Main Towns: Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Patiala, Moga, Gurdaspur

Geography: (a) Rivers: Beas, Sutluj, Ravi; (b) Mountains: Katar Dhar (Shivalik Range), Hoshiarpur Chohaland, Chandigarh Chohaland; (c) Plain Malwa, Sirhind, Manjha.

Economy: (a) Industries: The chief manufactures are textiles, sewing machines, sports goods, sugar, starch, fertilizers, bicycles, scientific instruments, electrical goods, machine tools and pine oil. A Science City is being set up at Jalandhar; (b) Agricultural Products: Wheat, rice, maize, bajra, jowar, barley, oilseeds, sugarcane, potato, cotton, pulses, tobacco.

Transport & Communications:

(a) Road Length: 48,543 km; (b) Railway Length: 3726.06 km; (c) Main Railway Stations: Patiala, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Bhatinda; (d) Airports: An international airport at Rajasansi (Amritsar), Chandigarh, Bathinda, and Ludhiana.

Culture: (a) Dances: Bhangra, Gidda and Thumar, (b) Festivals: Gurpurab, Lohri, Dussehra, Diwali, Holi, Holi Mohalla (Anandpur Sahib), Rauza Sharif Urs (Sirhind), Baisakhi (Talwandi Saboo), Chappar Mela, Sheikh Farid Agam Purb (Faridkot), Shaheedi Jor Mela (Sirhind), Harballah Sangeet Sammelan (Jalandhar); (c) Crafts: Pulkari embroidery on bed sheets, durries, shawls, jerseys.

22. Rajasthan

Date of Formation: 1 Nov 1956 Raja-sathan (~ full statehood); 25 Mar 1948 Rajasthan Union; 18 Apr 1948 United states of Rajasthan; 30 Apr 1949 United states of Greater Rajasthan (from 1950: Part (B))

Area: 3,42,239 sq km

Capital: Jaipur

Neighbouring States: Gujarat, MP, UP, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab. Country: Pakistan.

The Harmony of the Heavens

The Jantar Mantar in Jaipur was built around 1730. It is literally 'Instruments for measuring the harmony of the heavens'.

tin; (b) Industries: The Central Sector Projects are: Steel Plant at Rourkela, AND Complex at Chhatrapur, Heavy Water Project at Talcher, Coach Repairing Workshop at Mancheswar, Aluminium complex at Koraput, Captive Power plant at Angul, Aluminium Smelter at Angul and Fertiliser Plant at Paradeep. Major thermal and hydel power stations are Talcher, Hirakud and Chiplima. Other power projects are Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Rengali and Ib. Centre has cleared a 10,000 MW power project at Orma, Orissa to be commissioned by 2008; c) Agricultural Products: 64% of the working population is dependent on agriculture. Rice, pulses, oil-seeds, jute, mesta, sugarcane (the main cash crop), coconut and turmeric are important crops. The state contributes one-tenth of the rice production in India.

Transport & Communications:

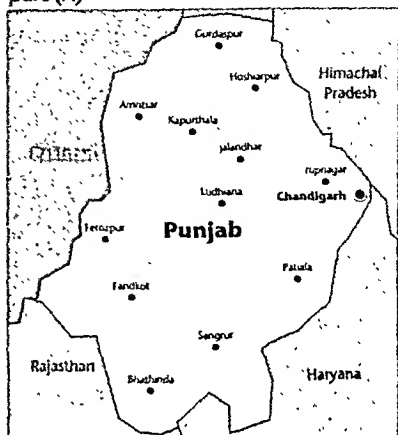
(a) Road Length: 3194 km NH; 30 km state express highways; 5014 km SH; (b) Railway Length in 2003 was 2,311 km - broad-gauge and 90 km narrow-gauge lines; (c) Main Rail-way Stations: Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Balangir, Raurkela, Sambalpur; (d) Airports: Bhubaneswar. There are 3 airstrips and 16 helipads in the state; (e) Ports: Paradeep (major) and Gopalpur (all-weather)

Culture: (a) Dances: Odissi, the dance form of Orissa, evolved in the shadow of the magnificent temples of the state. Dalkhai (tribal dance), Chhoomra, Ranapa and Chha-daya (folk dance); (b) Festivals: Rath Yatra (Puri), Chhaban Purnima, Ashokastami, Chan-dan

Yatra, Snana Yatra and Konark festival; (c) Handloom products of silk and tussar, silver filigree work (tarkashi), Pat chitra paintings, golden glass work.

21. Punjab

Date of Formation: 15 Aug 1947 Province; 26 Jan 1950 State (until 1956: part (A))



Area: 50,362 sq km

Capital: Chandigarh

Neighbouring States: Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan. Country: Pakistan.

Population: 24,358,999; **Males:** 12,985,045; **Females:** 11,373,954; **Urban Population:** 33.95%; (a) **Population Density:** 482; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 874 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 44 ('05). **SC:** 7,029,000 (28.85%), **ST:** 0 **Literacy (%):** 69.65; **Males:** 75.23; **Females:** 63.36. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.36759.

Fourteen Water Projects

14 water resources projects have been declared as National Projects. These include Shahpur Kandi and 2nd Ravi Vyas Link in Punjab, Teesta Barrage in W. Bengal, Bursar and Ujh in J&K, Kulsi Dam in Asom and Kishau and Renuka in H.P.

Sojat Hills, Mewar Hills, Mukandwara; (d) Lakes/Reservoirs Sambhar Salt Lake, Gudha, Rana Pratap Sagar, Gandhi Sagar, Dhebar Lake, Mandor (e) Wildlife Sariska Tiger Park-Alwar, Keoladeo Ghana National Park.

Economy: (a) Minerals: zinc concentrates, emerald, garnet, gypsum, silver ore, asbestos, feldspar, mica, rock phosphate, marble and red stone; (b) Industries: Textiles, rugged and woollen goods, sugar, cement, glass, sodium, oxygen and acetylene units, pesticides, insecticides and dyes are some of the major industries. Other enterprises include the manufacture of caustic soda, calcium carbide and nylon tyre cord and copper smelting. Marble work, woollen carpets, jewellery, embroidery, articles of leather, pottery and brass embossing. Rajasthan handicrafts are famous all over the world; (c) Agricultural Products: The principal crops are jowar, bajra, maize, wheat, grams, oil-seeds, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco.

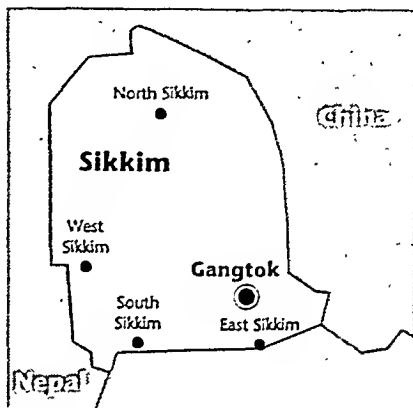
Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 1,53,734 km; (b) Railway Length 6228 km; (c) Main Railway Stations: Jaipur, Jodhpur, Marwar, Kota, Alwar, Sawai Madhopur; (d) Airports: Jaipur, Jodhpur

Culture: (a) Dances: Khayal (dance-music), Ghumar during Teej and Gangaur festivals, Panihari, Chari, Kachchi Ghor; (b) Festivals: Deepawali, Vijayadashami, Holi, Teej, Gangaur (Jaipur), Urs of Ajmer Sherif and Galiakot, Christmas; (c) Fairs: tribal Kumbh of Bene-shwar (Dungarpur), Ramdeora (Jaisalmer), Mahavir fair at Shri Mahavirji in Sawai Madhopur, Janbeshwari Fair (Mukam-Bikaner), Kartik Purn-

ima and Cattle Fair (Pushkar-Ajmer) and Shyamji Fair (Sikar); (d) Craft: Bandhini (tie and dye) work, block printing, hand-knotted woollen carpets, massoria work, gharas kagzi pottery, pichwais (painting on cloth), phads (cloth scroll painting), lacquer-works.

23. Sikkim

Date of Formation: 16 May 1975
State



Area: 7,096 sq km

Capital: Gangtok

Neighbouring States: West Bengal.
Countries: China, Nepal, Bhutan.

Population: 540,851; **Males:** 288,484; **Females:** 252,367; **Urban Population:** 11.10%; (a) **Population Density:** 76; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 875 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 30 ('05). **SC:** 27,000 (5.02%), **ST:** 111,000 (20.60%). **Literacy (%)**: 68.81; **Males:** 76.04; **Females:** 60.40. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs.26412.

A Peaceful State

Sikkim is known for its multi ethnic society. It is the most peaceful state of India and a symbol of communal harmony and human relations.



Jaipur	11,588	52,52,388	Jaipur
Jaisalmer	38,401	5,07,999	Jaisalmer
Jalore	10,640	14,48,486	Jalore
Jhalawar	6,219	11,80,342	Jhalawar
Jhunjhunu	5,928	19,13,099	Jhunjhunu
Jodhpur	22,850	28,80,777	Jodhpur
Karoli	5,014	12,05,631	Karoli
Kota	5,481	15,68,580	Kota
Nagaur	17,718	27,73,894	Nagaur
Pali	12,387	18,19,201	Pali
Rajsamand	4,768	9,86,269	Rajsamand
S. Madhopur	5,043	11,16,031	S. Madhopur
Sikar	7,732	22,87,229	Sikar
Sirohi	5,136	8,50,756	Sirohi
Tonk	7,194	12,11,343	Tonk
Udaipur	12,511	26,32,210	Udaipur

Population: 56,473,122; **Males:** 27,420,011; **Females:** 27,087,177; **Urban Population:** 23.38%; (a) **Population Density:** 165; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 922; **Infant Mortality Rate:** 68 ('05). **Population:** 9,694,000 (17.16%), **ST:** 7,098,000 (2.56%). **Literacy (%):** 60.41; **Males:** 70; **Females:** 43.85. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): ₹ 1,17863.

No. of Districts: 32

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Headquarters
Ajmer	8,481	21,80,526	Ajmer
Alwar	8,380	29,90,862	Alwar
Banswara	5,037	15,00,420	Banswara
Baran	6,955	10,22,568	Baran
Bikaner	28,387	19,63,758	Bikaner
Bharatpur	5,066	20,98,323	Bharatpur
Bhilwara	10,455	20,09,516	Bhilwara
Bikaner	27,244	16,73,562	Bikaner
Bundi	5,550	9,61,269	Bundi
Chittorgarh	10,856	18,02,656	Chittorgarh
Churu	16,830	19,22,908	Churu
Dausa	2,950	13,16,790	Dausa
Dholpur	3,034	9,82,815	Dholpur
Dungarpur	3,770	11,07,037	Dungarpur
Ganganagar	7,944	17,88,487	Ganganagar
Hanumangarh	12,690	15,17,390	Hanumangarh

Villages: 39,753; **Towns:** 222

Governor: Shilendra Kumar Singh

CM: Smt. Vasundhara Raje Scindia

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature- Unicameral; Assembly Seats: 200; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 25 (18+4+3); Rajya Sabha Seats: 10

Main Political Parties: BJP, INC, Indian National Lok Dal, BSP, JD-U, CPI-M, Lok Jan Shakti Party, Rajasthan Samajik Nyaya Manch.

Seat of High Court: Jodhpur and a bench at Jaipur.

Chief Languages: Rajasthani, Hindi, Gujarati

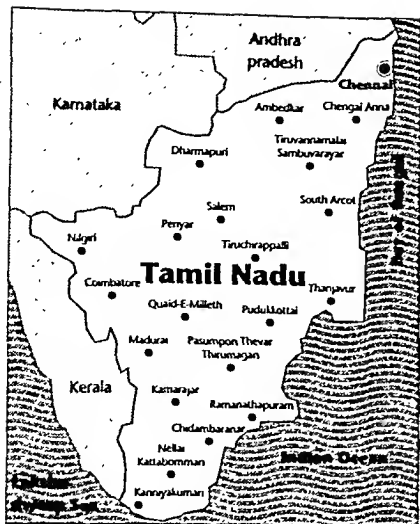
Major Religions: Hinduism, Jainism, Islam

Main Towns: Jaipur, Kota, Tonk, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Gandhinagar, Pali, Nagaur, Udaipur, Bhilwara, Sikar, Alwar, Sawai Madhopur, Baran, Ajmer, Chittorgarh

Geography: (a) Desert: Great Indian Desert (The Thar); (b) Rivers: Luni, Banas, Kali Sindh, Chambal, Indira Gandhi Nahar (Canal); (c) Mountains: Aravalli Range (Guru Shikhar Peak, 1722m), Alwar Hills,

Hawa Mahal

Hawa Mahal ("The Palace of the Winds") is the most famous of Jaipur buildings. It is a pink sandstone palace for ladies. The facade has 953 small casements each with a balcony. The ladies watched processions below without being seen.



(1.04%). **Literacy (%)**: 73.45; **Males**: 82.42; **Females**: 64.33. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs. 29958.

No. of Districts: 31

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Ariyalur	1,937	6,95,524	Ariyalur
Chennai	174	43,43,645	Chennai
Coimbatore	7,469	42,71,856	Coimbatore
Cuddalore	3,706	22,85,395	Cuddalore
Dharmapuri	9,622	28,56,300	Dharmapuri
Dindigul	6,058	19,23,014	Dindigul
Erode	8,209	25,81,500	Erode
Kancheepuram	4,307	28,77,468	Kancheepuram
Kanyakumari	1,684	16,76,034	Nagercoil
Krishnagiri	5,143	15,46,700	Krishnagiri
Karur	2,901	9,35,686	Karur
Madurai	3,696	25,78,201	Madurai
Nagapattinam	2,417	14,88,839	Nagapattinam
Namakkal	3,404	14,93,462	Namakkal
Nilgiris	2,549	7,62,141	(Ooty)
			Udagamandalam

Perambalur	1,750	493,646	Perambalur
Pudukkottai	4,651	14,59,601	Pudukkottai
Ramana-thapuram	4,175	11,87,604	Ramana-thapuram
Salem	5,425	30,16,346	Salem
Sivagangai	4,143	11,55,356	Sivagangai
Thanjavur	3,476	22,16,138	Thanjavur
Theni	2,869	10,93,950	Theni
Thiruvannamalai	6,190	21,86,125	Thiruvannamalai
Thiruvavur	2,377	11,69,474	Thiruvavur
Tirunelveli	6,810	27,23,988	Tirunelveli
Tiruvallur	3,550	27,54,756	Tiruvallur
Trichirappalli	4,511	24,18,366	Trichirappalli
Thoothukudi	4,621	15,72,273	Thoothukudi
Vellore	6,077	34,77,317	Vellore
Viluppuram	7,190	29,60,373	Viluppuram
Virudhunagar	4,283	17,51,301	Virudhunagar

Villages: 15,400; **Towns**: 832

Governor: Surjit Singh Barnala

CM: M. Karunanidhi

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 234 (excluding nomination); Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 39 (32+7+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 18

Main Political Parties: All India Dravida Munetra Kazhagam, Dravida Munetra Kazhagam, Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar), Pattali Makkal Katchi, INC, CPI-M, CPI, BJP, MGR Anna DMK, All India Forward Bloc.

Seat of High Court: Chennai.

Chief Languages: Tamil.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity.

Main Towns: Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Vellore, Salem, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Tutuconin, Tirunelveli, Udagamandalam, Nagercoil.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Palar, Kaveri, Vaigai, Cheyyar, Ponniyar, Meyar, Bhavani, Tamarapani, Chittar, Vellar, Noyal,

Indian Navy's Record

Indian Navy is the only organisation in the world to have conquered the three poles - South Pole, North Pole and Mount Everest. On April 9, 2008 the Navy became the first Indian team to ski to the North Pole.

No. of Districts: 4

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
East	954	1,78,452	Gangtok
North	4,226	31,240	Mangan
South	750	98,604	Namchi
West	1,166	98,161	Gyalshing

Villages: 450; Towns: 9**Governor:** Balmiki Prasad Singh**CM:** Pawan Chamling**Legislative Bodies:** State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 32; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 1; Rajya Sabha Seats: 1**Main Political Parties:** Sikkim Democratic Front, INC.**Seat of High Court:** Gangtok**Chief Languages:** Lepcha, Bhutia, Hindi, Nepali and Limbu**Major Religions:** Buddhism, Hinduism.**Main Towns:** Gangtok, Namchi, Gyalshing, Mangan, Jepe La, Pemayangtse, Lachen, Yunthang**Geography:** (a) Rivers: Teesta, Rangit; (b) Mountains: Kanchenjunga-the highest peak in India is situated here. (c) Khangchendzonga National Park is one of the highest national parks in the world and includes the world's third highest mountain (Kanchenjunga). Deorali is another National Park. The yak and the musk deer are animals found in Sikkim. There are over 4000 species of plants.**Economy:** (a) Minerals: Gold, silver, copper, zinc; (b) Industries: There are units engaged in food processing, tanning, watch assembling and distilleries, breweries and flour mills; (c) Agricultural Products: The principal crops are maize, paddy, millet, wheat and barley. Orange,

potatoes, apples and cardamom are also produced. Sikkim has the largest area and the highest production of large cardamom in India. Tea is grown in Sikkim.

Sikkim is very rich in varieties of orchids.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 2383 km; (b) Main Railway Stations: No stations but the closest ones are Siliguri (114 km) and Jalpaiguri (125 km); (c) Airports: Gangtok.

Culture: (a) Dances: Mask dances of Bhutias, Nepalis and Lepchas are famous; (b) Festivals: Maghey Sankranti, Durga Puja, Chaite Dasai (Nepali), Pang Lhabso and Losar (Bhutias), Namsoong and Tendong Hlo Rum Faat (Lepchas); (c) Crafts: Woollen carpets, with Tibetan designs, rough blankets, saris, cane and bamboo works, wood carving, handmade paper and silver works.

24. Tamil Nadu

Date of Formation: 15 Aug 1947 Madras province; 26 Jan., 1950 State (until 1956: Part (A)); 14 Jan., 1969 Renamed Tamil Nadu

Area: 1,30,058 sq km**Capital:** Chennai**Neighbouring States:** Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondichery. Sea: Bay of Bengal & Indian Ocean. Country: Sri Lanka.

Population: 62,405,679; **Males:** 31,400,909; **Females:** 31,004,770; **Urban Population:** 43.86%; (a) **Population Density:** 480; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 986 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 37 ('05). **SC:** 11,858,000 (19%), **ST:** 6,51,000

A Momentous Year

The year 1955 saw: India's first newsprint factory starting production at Nepanagar in M.P. in January; Khadakvasla Defence Academy officially opened in the same month; and the inauguration of the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur.

No. of Districts: 4

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Dhalai	2,552	3,07,868	Ambassa
North Tripura	2,821	5,90,913	Kailashahar
South Tripura	2,152	7,67,440	Udaipur
West Tripura	2,997	15,32,982	Agartala

Villages: 858; Towns: 23**Governor:** D.N. Sahaya**CM:** Manik Sarkar

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-
Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 60; Parliamen-
t: Lok Sabha Seats: 2(1+0+1); Rajya
Sabha Seats: 1

Main Political Parties: CPI-M, INC,
Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura,
RSP, CPI.

Seat of High Court: Guwahati High
Court Agartala bench

Chief Languages: Bengali, Kokborak,
and Manipuri .

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam,
Christianity

Main Towns: Agartala, Belonia, Ku-
mar-ghat, Kailashahar, Udaipur, Khowai
and Kamalpur.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Gomti

Economy: (a) Minerals: Natural Gas;
(b) Industries: Registered factories-1,282.
Hand-loom weaving is the single largest
industry. There are several jute factories
that make gunny bags and other prod-
ucts for the market. It is essentially a
tribal household industry. The sericulture
industry is developing fast. Energy gener-
ated-337.68 m.u. Tripura is abundant in
natural gas and a number of gas-based
industries have sprung up. There are 809
small scale industrial units in Tripura; (c)
Agricultural Products: Rice, sugarcane,
jute, mesta, potatoes, tea and rubber.

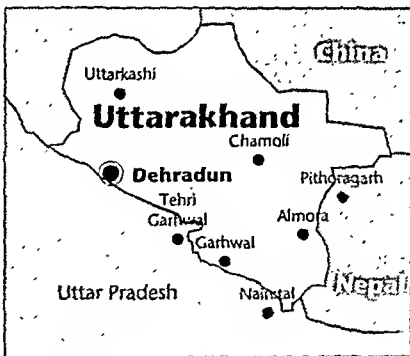
Transport & Communications:

(a) Road Length: 14,395 km; (b) Railway
Length: 64 km; (c) Main Railway Stations:
Manughat, Dharamnagar; (d) Airports:
Agartala

Culture: (a) Dances: Cherolaw
- Bamboo dance; (b) Festivals: Makar
Sankranti at Tirtha-mukh and Unakoti,
Bengali New Year, Garia Puja, Hozagiri,
Mansa Mangal, Ker and Karachi Puja,
Ganga Puja, Christmas, Buddha Purnima,
Ashokasthami at Unakoti, Sarad festival,
Rash Leela, Jhulan Jatra, Rath Jatra; (c)
Crafts: Bamboo handicrafts esp. sitalpatti
(mats), lasing-phae (quilt like weaving),
terracotta and cane.

26. Uttarakhand

Date of Formation: 9 November,
2000 as Uttaranchal; renamed Uttarakhand
in 2007.

**Area:** 53,484 sq km**Capital:** (provisional): Dehra Dun

Neighbouring States: UP, Himachal
Pradesh. Countries - China, Nepal.

Population: 8,489,349; **Males:****Indians in South Africa**

The majority of Indians who originally came to South Africa were Hindu. Of these, the Tamil and Telugu speakers constitute the majority. Some two-thirds of South Africa's Indians are Hindus.

Suruli, Vaipar, etc.; (b) Mountains: Along the whole length of the western part, is the range of the Western Ghats. The Palghat Gap about 25 km in width is the only marked break in the great mountain wall. To the south of this Palghat Gap, the range is known as Anamalai (Elephant Hills).

On the east are the Palani Hills on which is situated the famous hill station Kodaikanal. In the famous Ootacamund area of the Nilgiris District, is the highest peak Doddabetta, 2640 metres above the sea level.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Lignite, limestone, magnesite, mica, quartz, felspar, bauxite, gypsum; (b) Industries: Cotton textile, automobiles, chemical fertilisers, paper and paper products, railway wagons and coaches, army tank, cement, iron & steel, computer peripherals and software; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice, maize, jowar, bajra, ragi, pulses, sugarcane, oilseed, cotton, chillies, coffee, tea, rubber, cardamom.

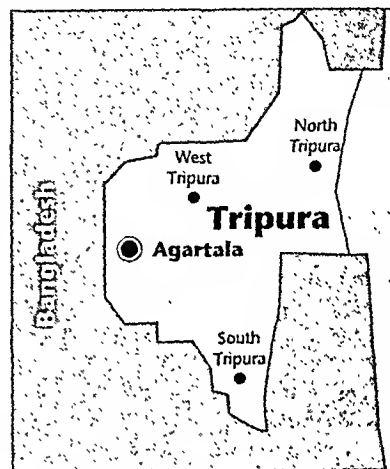
Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 150,095 km; (b) Railway Length 4181 km; (c) Main Railway Stations: Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore and Salem; (d) Airports: Meenambakam International, Chennai; Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem; (e) Ports: Chennai and Thoo-thukudi (Tuticorin), Cuddalore, Naga-pattinam.

Culture: (a) Dances: Bharathanatyam, Kalakshetra, Kollattam, Kummi, Kavadi, Kara-gams; (b) Festivals: Pongal (harvest), Jallikattu (bull fight), Chitirai-Madurai, Adipperukku (on river banks during sowing season), Maha-magam fest, Dance

festival-Mamalapuram, Kanthuri festival, Karthigai festival, Navaratri festival, Musi Festival.

25. Tripura

Date of Formation: 21 January 1972.



Area: 10,491.69 sq km

Capital: Agartala

Neighbouring States: Assam, Mizoram **Country:** Bangladesh.

Population: 3,199,203; **Males:** 1,642,225; **Females:** 1,556,978; **Urban Population:** 17.02%; (a) **Population Density:** 304; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 950; (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 31 ('05) **SC:** 556,000 (17.37%), **ST:** 993,000 (31.05%). **Literacy (%):** 73.19; **Males:** 81.02; **Females:** 64.91. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) Rs.24706.

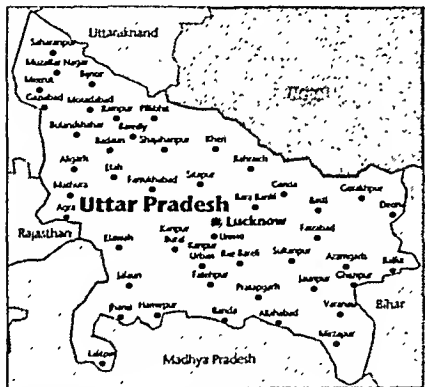
Ruler known as Fa

According to 'Rajmala' chronicles of King Tripura, the rulers of Tripura were known by the surname 'Fa' meaning 'father'. The country has a unique tribal culture and a fascinating folklore.

Mela (Hardwar- every 12th / 6th year interval); Devidhura Mela (Chamawat), Nanda Devi Mela (Almor(a), Gauchar Mela (Chamoli), 8aisakhi & Maga Mela (Uttarkashi), Uttaraini Mela (8ageshwar), Vishu Mela (Jaunsar Vavar), Peerane-Kaliyar (Roorkee), Nanda Devi Raj Jat Yaatra -every 12th year, and Purnaginri Mela.

27. Uttar Pradesh

Date of Formation: 15 Aug 1947
United province; 26 Jan, 1950, Uttar Pradesh state (until 1956: Part (A))



Area: 2,40,928 sq km
Capital: Lucknow
Neighbouring States: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar. Country: Nepal.
Population: 166,052,859; **Males:** 87,565,369; **Females:** 78,632,552; **Urban Population:** 20.78%; (a) **Population Density:** 689; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 898 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 73 ('05). **SC:** 35,148,000 (21.15%), **ST:** 108,000

(0.06%). **Literacy (%)**: 56.27; **Males:** 68.82; **Females:** 42.22. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs.13262.

No. of Districts: 70

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Agra	4,027	36,20,436	Agra
Aligarh	3,650	29,92,286	Aligarh
Allahabad	5,482	49,36,105	Allahabad
Ambedkar Nagar	2,496	20,26,876	Akbarpur
Azamgarh	4,054	39,39,916	Azamgarh
Baghpat	1,321	11,63,991	Baghpat
Bahraich	4,420	23,81,072	Bahraich
Balia	2,981	27,61,620	Balia
Balrampur	3,349	16,84,567	Balrampur
Banda	4,460	15,37,334	Banda
Barabanki	4,402	26,73,581	Barabanki
Bareilly	4,120	36,18,589	Bareilly
Basti	2,688	20,84,814	Basti
Bijnore	4,561	31,31,619	Bijnore
Budaun	5,168	30,69,426	Budaun
Bulandshahr	4,352	29,13,122	Bulandshahr
Chandauli	2,541	16,43,251	Chandauli
Chitrakoot	3,164	7,66,225	Chitrakoot
Deoria	2,538	27,12,650	Deoria
Etah	4,446	27,90,410	Etah
Etawah	2,311	13,38,871	Etawah
Faizabad	2,341	20,88,928	Faizabad
Farrukhabad	2,181	15,70,408	Fatehgarh
Fatehpur	4,152	23,08,384	Fatehpur
Firozabad	2,361	20,52,958	Firozabad
Gautam Buddha Nagar	1,442	1202,030	Buddha Nagar
Ghaziabad	1,148	32,90,586	Ghaziabad
Ghazipur	3,377	30,37,582	Ghazipur
Gonda	4,003	27,65,586	Gonda
Gorakhpur	3,321	37,69,456	Gorakhpur
Hamirpur	4,282	10,43,724	Hamirpur
Hardoi	5,986	33,98,306	Hardoi
Hathras	1840	13,36,031	Hathras
Jalaun	4,565	14,54,452	Orai
Jaunpur	4,038	39,11,679	Jaunpur
Jhansi	5,024	17,44,931	Jhansi
JyotibaPhuleNagar	2,249	14,99,068	Amroha
Kannauj	2,093	13,88,923	Kannauj
Kanpur (Dehat)	3,021	15,63,336	Akbarpur

Nainital

Nainital was discovered in 1839 by P. Barron, a British sugar merchant of Jaunpur. The Tal (lake) of the Goddess Naina Devi lay at an elevation of the foothills of the Himalayas.

3,25,924; Females: 4,163,425, **Urban population:** 25.59%; (a) **Population density:** 159; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 964; (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 42 ('05). **C:** 1,517,000 (17.87%), **ST:** 256,000 (3.02%). **Literacy (%):** 71.62; **Males:** 63.28; **Females:** 59.63. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs. 24585.

No. of Districts: 13

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Almora	3,139	6,30,567	Almora
Bageshwar	2,246	2,49,462	Bageshwar
Chamoli	8,030	3,70,359	Gopeshwar
Champawat	2,004	2,24,542	Champawat
Dehradun	3,088	12,82,143	Dehradun
Pauri Garhwal	5,329	6,97,078	Pauri
Hardwar	2,360	14,47,187	Hardwar
Nainital	4,251	7,62,909	Nainital
Pithoragarh	7,090	4,62,289	Pithoragarh
Rudra Prayag	1,984	2,27,439	Rudra Prayag
Uttar Garhwal	3,642	6,04,747	New Tehri
Udhamsingh Nagar	2,542	12,35,614	Rudrapur
Uttarkashi	8,016	2,95,013	Uttarkashi

Villages: 15,761; **Towns:** 86

Governor: B.L. Joshi

CM: Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Chanduri.

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature-Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 70; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 5(4+1+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 3; Jurisdiction of High Court: Uttaranchal.

Main Political Parties: INC, BJP, BSP, Uttarakhand Kranti Dal, NCP.

Seat of High Court: Nainital.

Chief Languages: Hindi, Garhwali, Kumaoni.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Sikhism.

Main Towns: Dehra Dun, Haridwar and Haldwari-cum-Kathgodam.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Yamuna, Bhagi-rathi, Ganga, Ramganga, Tons, and Kali; (b) Mountains: Shiwalik range, Great Himalaya, Garhwal Hills, Kumaon Hills; (c) Peaks: Nanda Devi - 7817m, Kamet-7756m, Badrinath-7138m, Dunagiri-7066m, Bandarpunch-63020; (d) Passes: Thaga La, Tsang Chok La, Muling La, Mana Pass, Niti Pass, Darma Pass, Lampiya Dhura Pass, Mangsha Dhura Pass.

(e) Hill Stations: Mussoorie - (Lal Tibba, Gun Hill, Kempty Falls, Lake, Surkunda Devi temple), Dehra Dun (IFRI, Sahasradhar(a), Chakrata, Nainital & Kumaon (mountaineering), Ranikhet, Bhim Tal, Naukuchia Tal, Bageshwar, and Kausani. (f) Six of the seven national parks including Corbett National Park, Rajaji National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Valley of Flowers, Kedarnath Sanctuary are in Uttaranchal.

Economy: (a) Minerals: limestone, rock phosphate, dolomite, magnesite, copper greiphyte, soapstone, gypsum, etc.; (b) Industries: forest-based, handicraft; (c) Agricultural Products:

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 19,543 km.; (b) Main Railway Stations: Dehra Dun, Hardwar, Roorkee, Kotdwar, Kashipur, Udhamsingh Nagar, Kathgodam, Haldwani; (c) Airport Jolly Grant (Dehra Dun). Airstrips: Pantnagar (Udham Singh Nagar), (Naini-Serai (Pithoragarh), Gauchar (Chamoli) and Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) - are being built).

Culture: (a) Dances: folk dances; (b) Festivals: Kumbh Mela / Ardh Kumbh

Per capita Income

Per capita income of Indians for 2007-08 is estimated at Rs. 33,299 at current prices, marking a doubling of p.c.i. since the start of this century. Average income has gone up 100 per cent, but actual purchasing power adjusted for inflation is higher by 50 p.c.

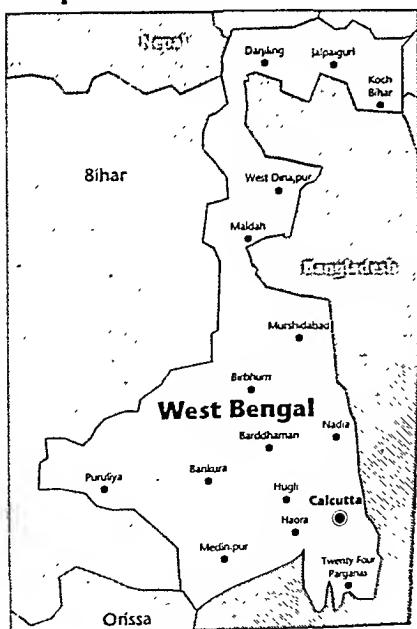
Kartik Pooranmasi, Dewa Sharief (place of Waris Ali Shah- Bara-banki); (c) Fair: Jhoola fair - of dolls (Mathura, Vrindavan Ayodhya(a), Bateswar cattle fair; (d) Crafts: silk saree and brocade (Banarasi silk), chikankari - hand stitched design, zardosi work, metalware, woodcarving, wood work inlaid with brassware on black sheesham, marbleware, glasswork, glaze pottery, etc.

28. West Bengal

Date of Formation: 15 Aug 1947 Province; 26 Jan, 1950 State (until 1956: Part (A))

Area: 88,752 sq km

Capital: Kolkata



Neighbouring States: Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim. Countries- Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh; and Bay of Bengal.

Population: 80,176,197; **Males:** 41,465,985; **Females:** 38,710,212; **Urban Population:** 28.03%; (a) **Population Density:** 903; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 934 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 38 ('05). **SC:** 18,453,000 (23.02%), **ST:** 4,407,000 (5.5%). **Literacy (%)**: 68.64; **Males:** 77.02; **Females:** 59.61. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs.25223.

No. of Districts: 18*

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Bankura	6,882	11,91,822	Bankura
Birbhum	4,545	10,12,546	Suri
Bardhaman	7,024	69,19,698	Bardhaman
Kolkata*	185	45,80,544	Kolkata
Cooch Behar	1,181	24,78,280	Cooch-Behar
Darjeeling	1,149	16,05,900	Darjeeling
Hooghly	1,149	50,40,047	Chinsurah
Howrah	1,467	42,74,010	Howrah
Jalpaiguri	6,227	34,03,204	Jalpaiguri
Malda	3,733	32,90,160	English Bazar
[*PaschimMedinipur - PaschimMedinipur]			
Purba Medinipur	14,081	96,38,473	Medinipur
Murshidabad	5,324	58,63,717	Bennur
Nadia	3,927	46,03,756	Krishnanagar
Purulia	6,259	25,35,233	Purulia
North 24 Parganas	4,094	89,30,295	Baishak
South 24 Parganas	9,660	69,09,015	Baruipur
Uttar Dinajpur	3,140	24,41,222	Dinajpur
Dakshin Dinajpur	2,219	15,02,557	Dinajpur

[*] separate figures not available

Villages: 37945; **Towns:** 10

Governor: Gopal Krishna

CM: Buddhadev

Legislative Body: 190

Structure: Unicameral

1000 Typewriters Every Month

It's the age of computers but 12,000 typewriters are still sold in India every year. About one-third of these are in languages - a majority in North East, W. Bengal and

Kanpur (City)	3,155	41,67,999	Kanpur
Kaushambi	1780	12,93,154	Kaushambi
Kushinagar	2,906	28,93,196	Podarauna
Lakshimpur Kheri	7,680	32,07,232	L. Kheri
Lalitpur	5,039	9,77,734	Lalitpur
Lucknow	2,528	36,47,834	Lucknow
Maharajganj	2,952	21,67,041	Maharajganj
Mahoba	2884	7,08,447	Mahoba
Mainpuri	2,760	15,96,718	Mainpuri
Mathura	3,340	20,74,516	Mathura
Mau	1,713	1853,997	Mau
Meerut	2,590	2997,361	Meerut
Mirzapur	4,521	21,16,042	Mirzapur
Moradabad	3,718	3810,983	Moradabad
Muzaffarnagar	4,008	3,543,362	Muzaffarnagar
Oraiya	2,015	11,79,993	Oraiya
Pilibhit	3,499	16,45,183	Pilibhit
Pratapgarh	3,717	28,72,335	Pratapgarh
Rai Bareilly	4,609	28,72,335	Rae Bareilly
Rampur	2,367	19,23,739	Rampur
Saharanpur	3,689	14,99,068	Saharanpur
Sant Kabir Nagar	1,646	14,20,226	Khalilabad
Sant Ravidas Nagar	1,015	13,53,705	Shadhoi
Shahjahanpur	4,575	25,47,855	Shahjahanpur
Shrawasti	2,458	11,76,391	Shrawasti
Siddharth Nagar	2,895	20,40,085	Navgarh
Sitapur	5,743	36,19,661	Sitapur
Sonbhadra	6,788	14,63,519	Robertsganj
Sultanpur	4,436	32,14,832	Sultanpur
Unnao	4,558	27,00,324	Unnao
Varanasi	1,535	31,38,671	Varanasi

Villages: 97,942; **Towns:** 704

Governor: T.V. Rajeshwar

CM: Kumari Mayawati

Legislative Bodies: State Legisla-

ture-Bicameral: Assembly Seats: 403;

Legislative Council - 100; Parliament:

Lok Sabha Seats: 80(63+17+0); Rajya

Sabha Seats: 31

Main Political Parties: Samajwadi

Party, BSP, BJP, INC, Rashtriya Lok Dal,

Rashtriya Kranti Party, Apna Dal, CPI-M,

Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Congress,

JD-U, Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha,

Janata Party, Lok Jan Shakti Party, National

Loktantrik Party, Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya).

Seat of High Court: Allahabad and a bench at Lucknow.

Chief Languages: Hindi and Urdu.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam.

Main Towns: Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Agra, Jhansi, Saharanpur, Etawah, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Noida, Aligarh, Faizabad.

Geography: (a) Rivers: Ganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Ghagra, Ramganga, Betwa; (b) Mountains: Lower hills of Shiwalik range, Kaimur range; (c) Plains: Gangetic Plain, Rohilkhand Plain, Avadh Plain. (d) Wildlife: Dudhwa Nat. Park, Corbett Nat. Park. Sanctuaries- Kedarnath, Govind and Chilla.

Economy: (a) Minerals: Limestone, magnesite, coal, rock phosphate, dolomite, silica-sand, pyrophyllite; (b) Industries: Edible oils, paper, cement, aluminium, railway equipment, industrial chemicals, Handloom, etc. (c) Agriculture: Products: Wheat, rice, maize, barley, gram, sugarcane, potatoes, pulses and oilseeds.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 1,18,946 km. NH-3869 km, SH- 9097km, District Rd.-9911; (b) Major Railway Stations: Lucknow (main junction), Agra, Kanpur, Allahabad, Mughalsarai, Jhansi, Moradabad, Varanasi, Tundla, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Faizabad, Bareilly, and Sitapur; (c) Airports: Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Agra, Jhansi, Bareilly, Hindon (Ghaziabad), Gorakhpur, Sarsawa, Fursatganj (Rae-Bareilly).

Culture: (a) Dances: Kathak; (b) Festivals: Kumbh Mela, Ardh Kumbh,

Eden Garden

In 1840, Lord Auckland bought a piece of barren land in Calcutta. His sisters Emily and Fanny Eden converted it into a beautiful garden. The first cricket match was played there in 1874.

Population: 93.01%; (a) **Population Density:** 9,340; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 821 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 35 ('05). **SC:** 2,343,000 (16.92%). **ST:** 0. **Literacy (%):** 81.67; **Males:** 87.33; **Females:** 74.71. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs. 61676

No. of Districts: 9

Villages: 158; **Towns:** 62

Lt. Governor: Tejender Khanna.

CM: Smt. Sheila Dikshit.

Legislative Bodies: Legislature Unicameral: Assembly Seats: 70; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 7(6+1+0); Rajya Sabha Seats: 3.

Main Political Parties: INC, BJP, NCP, JD-Secular.

Chief Languages: Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Jainism

Main Towns: New Delhi, Delhi Cantt, Palam, Mehrauli, Shahdara, Alipur, Badaali, Nazafgarh, Narela.

Geography: Rivers: Yamuna

Economy: (a) Industries: electronics, light engineering machines, automobile parts, sport goods, bicycles, PVC goods, footwears, textiles, fertilisers, medicines, hosiery, leather goods, softwares, etc.; (b) Agricultural Products: wheat, bajra, jowar, gram, maize. Now fruit crops, vegetables, floriculture, dairy and poultry farming are more common.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: Inter-State terminuses: Kasmer Gate, Sarai Kalen Khan and Anand Vihar; (b) Railways Delhi Metro Service is very important connecting important places within the city; (c) Main Railway

Stations: Delhi Jn., New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin; (d) Airports: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Domestic flight - Palam and for training Safdarjung-.

National Museum, Nehru Memorial Museum, Craft Museum, National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of Modern Art, Central Cottage Industries Emporium (Janpath), States Emporia (Baba Kharak Singh Marg), Dilli Haat - handicrafts.

Culture: (a) Festivals: Roshnara festival, Shalimar festival, Qutab festival, Winter Carnival, Garden Tourism & Mango festival. Besides International Industrial Exhibitions, Automobile Exhibitions, Defense Exhibitions, etc.

30. Andaman & Nicobar Is.

Date of Formation: 1 Nov, 1956- Union Territory

Area: 8,249 sq km

Capital: Port Blair

Neighbouring States: Sea

Population: 3,56,152; **Males:** 192,972; **Females:** 163,180. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006) : Rs. 34853

Until the colonisation of India, Andaman Islands were inhabited by 4 Negrito tribes viz., the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa & Sentinalese and 2 Mongoloid tribes viz., Nicobarese and Shompens.

(a) **Population Density:** 43; (b) **Sex Ratio:** (females per 1000 males): 845 ~~845~~ **Infant Mortality Rate:** 27 (05) ~~27~~ **ST:** 29,000 (8.27%).

Buddha Statue

On December 12, 1992, one of the world's largest monolithic dha, 17.2 mt tall and weighing 320 tonnes, was installed in the Sagar lake in Hyderabad city.

excluding nomination); Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 42(32+8+2); Rajya Sabha seats: 16

Main Political Parties: CPI-M, All India Trinamool Congress, INC, All India Forward Bloc, RSP, CPI, West Bengal Socialist Party, Gorkha National Liberation Front.

Seat of High Court: Kolkata

Chief Languages: Bengali

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity

Main Towns: Kolkata, Kharagpur, Medinipur, Asansol, Murshidabad, Howrah, Bardhaman, Siliguri, Purnia

Geography: (a) Rivers: Bhagirathi, Jayurakshi, Damodar, Kangsabati, Teesta, Torsha, Jaldhaka, Mahananda, Subarnarekha and Rupnarayan; (b) Mountains: Susta Hills, Darjeeling (b) Wildlife: Sundarbans National Park and Tiger Reserve

Economy: (a) Minerals: Coal and China clay are two important minerals being exploited; (b) Industries: engineering, automobiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, aluminium, ceramics, jute, cotton textiles, tea, paper, leather, footwear, ironmeal, bicycle, dairy, poultry and timber-processing. Central public sector undertakings include locomotive, cable, fertiliser, ship-building and ordnance; (c) Agricultural Products: Rice, Wheat, pulses, Oilseed, Potato and Jute.

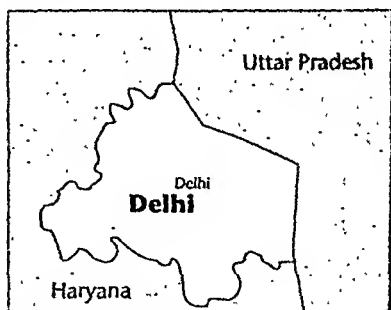
Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 79,255 km including 1715 km NH., (Mar. 31, 1999); (b) Railway length 3,697.25 km.; (c) Main Railway stations: Howrah, Asansol, Sealdah, Andal, Bardhaman, Kharagpur, New

Jalpaiguri. Calcutta's Metro Rail project, the first of its kind in the country, was commissioned in 1995; (d) Airports: Dum Dum International (Kolkata), Bagdogra, Kalaikunda, Panagarh, Malda, Barrackpore, Behala, Balurghat and Coochbehar; (e) Ports: Kolkata and Haldia

Culture: West Bengal is known for its textiles; handlooms; Murshidabad and Baluchari silk sarees; Kantha embroidery; cane and bamboo work, leather craft, clay dolls & toys, masks, sholapith works; (a) Dances: Chhau (Purulia), Rabindra Nritya; (b) Festivals: Durga puja is the most important festival along with Kali puja or Diwali. Vasant Pan-chami, Lakshmi puja, Holi, Sivaratri, Janma-shtami, Id-ul-Fitr.

29. Delhi

Date of Formation: December 1991



Area: 1,483 sq km

Capital: Delhi

Neighbouring States: Haryana, UP.

Population: 13,800,507; **Males:** 7,607,234; **Females:** 6,243,273; **Urban**

The Rhino

Poachers kill the rhino for its horn which is used in Chinese and Tibetan medicine. The rhino population in Kaziranga National park is about 1200. Kaziranga Reserve Forest was declared a game sanctuary in 1916 to save the Indian greater one-horned rhino.

Vishakapatnam. The UT's transport system serves 9 major islands from Diglipur to Campbell Bay. Andaman Trunk Road services connects Rangat, Maya-bunder and Diglipur using 3 ferry boats. There are 5 wharfs and 41 jetties linking all inhabited islands; (b) There is a network of 866 km of black-tapped roads; (c) Airports: Port Blair

Sanctuaries: Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Barren Is., Narcondum Is., North Reef Is., and South Sentinel.

Islands: Havelock, Neil, Jolly Buoy, Cinque, Red Skin, Chidiya Tapu (Bird Island), Viper Island.

Beaches: Corbyn Cove, Radha Nagar, Cutbert Bay, Karmatang, Ross & Smith, Wandoor Beach.

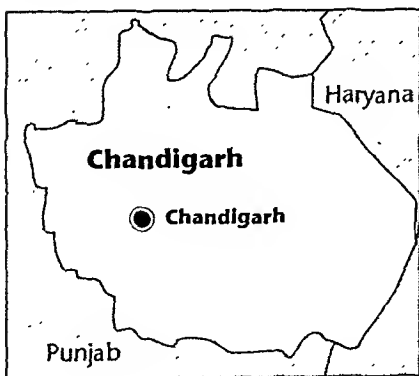
31. Chandigarh

Date of Formation: UT since 1966

Area: 114 sq km

Capital: Chandigarh

Neighbouring States: Punjab, Haryana



Population: 9,00,635; **Males:** 506,938; **Females:** 393,697; Urban Population 89.78%; (a) **Population Density:** 7,900; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 773 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 19 ('05). **SC:** 158,000 (17.5%), **ST:** 0. **Literacy (%):** 81.94; **Males:** 8614; **Females:** 76.47. **Per Capita Income** at current prices (2005-2006): Rs. 86629

No. of Districts: One

Villages: 23; **Towns:** 1

Administrator: Gen. (Rtd.) S.F. Rodrigues

Legislative Bodies: Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats:1; Rajya Sabha Seats: None

Seat of High Court: Punjab & Haryana (at Chandigarh)

Chief Languages: Hindi, Punjabi and English

Major Religions: Sikhism, Hinduism

Main Towns: Chandigarh . .

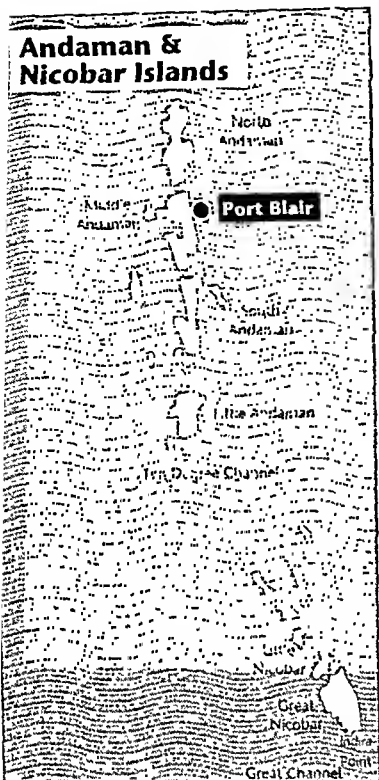
Economy: (a) Industries: Hosiery, antibiotics, cycles, electrical metres, home appliances, electronic equipments. There are 15 large and medium scale industrial units in Chandigarh, out of which two are public sector undertakings. More than 3,000 units are registered under small scale sector and they offer employment to about 30,000 persons. The neighbouring States have developed industrial estates right next to the city; (b) Agricultural Products: The Territory has 1,400 hectares of cultivable land. The irrigated area is about 1,450 ha. Wheat, maize and paddy are the major crops. The forest covers 27 per cent of the area.

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: NH-15.275 km.; (b) Main

'City Beautiful'

Chandigarh, a modern, planned city of India nestles in a picturesque setting of Shivalik hills. The city is the creation of the French architect Le Corbusier. It serves as the joint capital of both Punjab and Haryana states.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Literacy (%): 81.30; **Males:** 86.33; **Females:** 75.24.

No. of Districts: 2

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
South Andaman	3,181	2,08,471	Port Blair
Nicobar	1,841	42,026	Car Nicobar
N & Mid. Andaman	3,227	1,05,613	Mayanunder

Villages: 501; **Towns:** 3

Lt. Governor: Lt. Gen. (Retd) Bhopinder Singh

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature:

None; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 1; No. of Rajya Sabha Seats None

Seat of High Court: Calcutta H.C., circuit bench at Port Blair.

Chief Languages: Local dialects, Nicobarese, Bengali, Hindi, Nicobarese, Telugu, Tamil & Malayalam

Main Towns: Shyamnagar, Naba-gram, Mayabunder, Uttara, Checkpoint, Herber-tahad, Bamboo Flat, Wrightmyo, Port Meadows, Wandoor.

Geography: Mountains: The islands form the peaks of several submerged mountain range that extends for almost 1000km between Myanmar and Sumatra. Saddle Peak (732 m), is the highest peak.

Economy: A total of 48,594 hectares of land is used for agriculture purposes. The principal crops are rice, coconuts and arecanut. Other crops are sugarcane, pulses, fruit and vegetables. Spices and rubber are being tried. Fisheries, tourism and ship repairing are the areas that can create jobs. There are 3 newspapers and 22 periodicals. Schools number 316 in all. The islands have a fleet of 57 ships. The installed capacity of power generation is 30,000 kw, with all revenue villages electrified; (a) Industries: There are 1421 registered small scale village units viz., fish processing factory, soft drinks, beverages, PVC conduit pipes, paints, furniture, etc., and handicraft units; (b) Agricultural Products: Rice, pulses, coconut, arecanut, coffee, sugarcane.

Transport & Communications: (a) The islands are accessible by air and sea. It is well connected to Kolkata, Chennai by air and by sea to Kolkata, Chennai and

Original Inhabitants of A & N Islands

The original inhabitants of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands lived in forests on hunting and fishing. There are four Negrito tribes, viz. the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinalese in the Andaman group of islands.

Villages: 23; **Towns:** 2

Administrator: Rajani Kant Verma

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature:

None

Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 2; Rajya Sabha Seats: None

Seat of High Court: Mumbai

Chief Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Major Religions: Hinduism, Christianity

Main Towns: Daman, Diu

Geography: Rivers: Kalem, Bhagwan (Daman)

Economy: (a) Minerals: Salt; (b) Industries: Fishing, tourism, and distillery.

Transport & Communications:

(a) Road Length: 191 - Daman, 78 - Diu;

(b) Nearest Railway Stations Vapi for Daman and Delvada for Diu; (c) Airports: Daman, Diu.

34. Lakshadweep

Date of Formation: 1 Nov 1956
Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands union territory (separated from Madras [see Tamil Nadu]) 1 Nov 1973. Renamed Lakshadweep

Area: 32 sq km.

Capital: Kavaratti.

Neighbouring States: Kerala, Karnataka. Sea: Arabian Sea.

Population: 60,650; **Males:** 29,519; **Females:** 29,519; **Urban Population:** 44.47%; (a) **Population Density:** 1,925; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 947; (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 22 ('05). **SC:** 2.53% (94.51%). **Literacy (%)**: Male: 92.53; **Females:** 80.47.

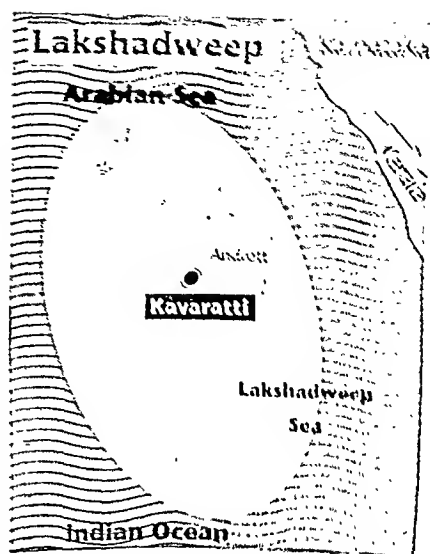
No. of Districts: 1. The union territory of islands is considered one district and divided into four talukas.

Villages: 28; **Towns:** 2

Administrator: S. J. Verma

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature:

None; **Parliament:** 2 Lok Sabha Seats



Rajya Sabha Seats: None

Seat of High Court: Kerala (located in Kochi)

Chief Languages: Jerseri (Dhivehi), Bhash(a), Mahal and Malayalam.

Major Religions: Islam.

Major Islands: Kavaratti, Agatti, Minicoy, Andrott, Kalpeni, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlat.

Geography: Its 36 islands, covering an area of 32 sq. km only, 10 are inhabited. The islands are 4-8 sq. km. in size, mostly fringed by sand and coral. The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea.

The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea. The islands are 4-8 sq. km. in size, mostly fringed by sand and coral. The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea.

Economy: The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea. The islands are 4-8 sq. km. in size, mostly fringed by sand and coral. The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea.

Transport & Communications: The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea. The islands are 4-8 sq. km. in size, mostly fringed by sand and coral. The Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea.

Railway Stations: Chandigarh; (c) Airports: Chandigarh.

Tourist Destinations: Zakir Rose Garden, Rock Garden, Shanti Kunj, Lake, Museum, Art Gallery, Capital complex and National Gallery of Portraits.

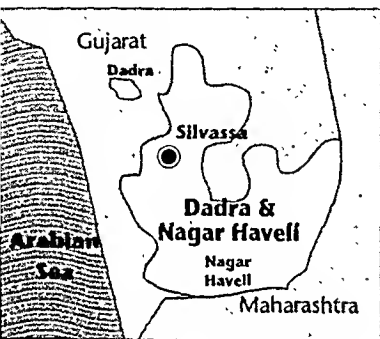
Culture: Festivals: Lodhi, Baisakhi

32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Date of Formation: 11 Aug 1961

Area: 491 sq km

Capital: Silvassa.



Neighbouring States: Gujarat, Maharashtra.

Population: 2,20,490; **Males:** 121,666; **Females:** 98,824; **Urban Population:** 22.89%; (a) **Population Density:** 449; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 811 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 42 ('05). **SC:** 4000 (1.86%), **ST:** 137000 (62.24%). **Literacy (%)**: 57.63; **Males:** 71.18; **Females:** 40.23.

No. of Districts: One

Villages: 70; **Towns:** 2

Administrator: Rajnikant Verma.

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature: None; Parliament: Lok Sabha Seats: 1(0+0+1); Rajya Sabha Seats: None

Seat of High Court: Mumbai

Chief Languages: Bhili, Gujarati, Bhilodi, Marathi and Hindi

Main Towns: Silvassa

Geography: Rivers: Silvasa, Khanvel

Economy: (a) Industries: Textiles, engineering, chemicals, electronics, cottage; (b) Agricultural Products: Ragi, wheat, sugarcane, paddy, pulses, mango, chiku, lichi

Transport & Communications: (a) Road Length: 556 km; (b) Main Railway Stations: Vapi is 18 km from Silvassa; (c) Airports: Nil.

Tourist Destinations: Bindrabin, Deer Park, Khanvel, Vanganga Lake and Island garden, Dadra, Vanvihar Udyan, Tribal Cultural museum.

Culture: Festivals: Diwaso, Bhawada, Kali Puja.

33. Daman & Diu

Date of Formation: 30 May 1987

Area: 112 sq km

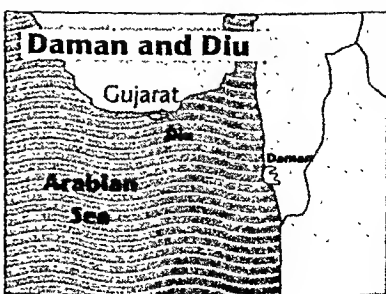
Capital: Daman

Neighbouring States: Gujarat.

Population: 158,204 **Males:** 92,512; **Females:** 65,692, **Urban Population:** 36.26%; (a) **Population Density:** 1,411; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 709 (c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 28 ('05). **SC:** 5,000 (3.06%), **ST:** 14,000 (8.85%). **Literacy (%)**: 78.18; **Males:** 86.76; **Females:** 65.61.

No. of Districts: 2

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head-quarters
Daman	72	1,13,989	Daman
Diu	40	44,215	Diu



GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE

25. Puducherry

Date of Formation: 7 Jan 1963 Pondicherry union territory

Area: 479 sq. km

Capital: Pondicherry

Neighbouring States: Bay of Bengal, Tamil Nadu.

Population: 974,345; **Males:**

86,961; **Females:** 487,384; **Urban**

Population: 66.57%; (a) **Population**

Density: 2,034; (b) **Sex Ratio:** 1,001.

(c) **Infant Mortality Rate:** 28 ('05). **SC:**

58,000 (16.19%), **ST:** 0. **Literacy (%)**:

1.24; **Males:** 88.62; **Females:** 74.90.

Per Capita Income at current prices

2005-2006) : Rs.48477

No. of Districts: 4

District	Area (sq km)	Population (2001)	Head- quarters
Karaikal	161	1,70,791	Karaikal
Mahe	9	36,828	Mahe
Puducherry	290	7,35,332	Pondicherry
Yanam	20	31,394	Yanam

Villages: 92; **Towns:** 6

Govt. Governor: Mukut Mithi.

CM: V. Vaidyalingam.

Legislative Bodies: State Legislature:

Unicameral -Seats: 30; Parliament: Lok

Sabha Seats:1; Rajya Sabha Seats:3

Seat of High Court: Madras High Court.

Chief Languages: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, English and French.

Major Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity.

Main Towns: Pondicherry, Karaikal, Yanam, Mahe.

Geography: Rivers: Gingee, Mahe

Economy: (a) Industries: Textiles,

computer hardware, electronics, plastic,

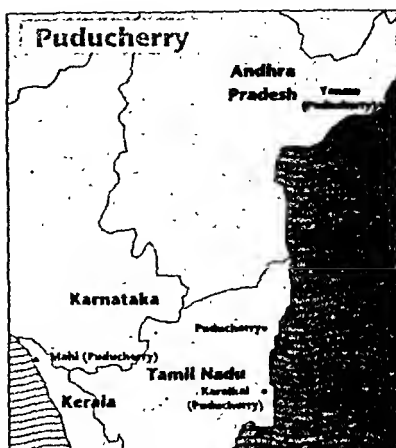
bicycle parts, alcoholic beverages, electrical

appliances, automobile parts, soap,

rice bran oil, cotton yarn, sugar, glazed

tiles, etc.; (b) Agricultural Products: Rice,

pulses, coconut, arecanut, condiments



etc. Groundnut, chillies are grown in Yanam.

Transport & Communications: (a)

Road Length: 2,443 km.; (b) Main Railway

Stations: Villupuram Jn. (nearest railway

link.); (c) Air-ports: (nearest-Chennai); (d)

Port:Pondicherry.

Tourist Destinations: Pondicherry

possesses a rich French cultural and

architectural heritage. The erstwhile

French Town ensconced in 4 boulevards,

a well-planned town, neatly laid roads and

vibrant beaches, French War Memorial,

botanical garden, Aurobindo Ashram,

Bharati and Bharatidasan Memorial

Museum, Govt. Museum, Govt. Square,

French Institute, Statue of Joan of Arc,

Auroville, lighthouse, Romain Rolland

Library, Varadaraja-perumal temple, Sri

Vedapureeswarar temple.

Culture: (a) Dances: Podikazhi attam;

(b) Festivals: Mascarade (mask festival,

Mar-Apr), Masimagam (Feb-Mar), eve of

French Bastille Day- is marked by flags and

parade; (c) Crafts: Hand-printed textiles,

Kalakari batik, marbling work, handmade

paper, bronze work.

[Per Capita : Source: Directorate of Eco-

nomics and Statistics of respective State

Govts.)

Akilan (or Akilandam, P.V.) (1922-'88): Noted Tamil author. Gyanpith award.

Alberuni (c.970-1039): Astronomer, mathematician, philosopher and author. Joined Mahmud of Ghazni's court, accompanying him on raids in India. Studied Indian civilization and languages and wrote about India. *Alberuni's India*.

Alexander The Great (356-323 B.C.): Greek conqueror, educated by Aristotle; king of Macedonia; conquered south-west Asia and Egypt; founded Alexandria; penetrated India; died at Babylon.

Alfred The Great (849-899): King of Wessex who became a national figure of Britain.

Ali, Aruna Asaf (1909-96): Indian freedom fighter; Mayor of Delhi, 1958. A devoted socialist, radical in her views. Bharat Ratna, '97.

Ali, Muhammed (Originally Cassius Marcellus Clay) (b. 1942): American pugilist famous for his unorthodox style and colourful personality. First boxer to win the heavy-weight title three times.

Ali, Salim (1896-1987): Indian ornithologist, known as "The Birdman of India". *Fall of a Sparrow*.

Allende, Salvador (1909-73): Chilean statesman; elected President (1970), becoming the first Marxist head of government in S. America.

Ambani, Dhirubhai (Dhirajlal Hira-chand) (1932 - 2002): Indian industrialist. Reliance Industries that he set up is India's largest private sector company. Sons Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani now head the Reliance companies.

Ambedkar, Bhimrao Ramji (Dr.) (1891-1956): Indian jurist, social worker,

politician, writer, educationist. Emancipator of the 'untouchables' and crusader for social justice. Drafted the Indian constitution. Minister in Nehru's cabinet. Bharat Ratna in 1990.

Amin, Idi (1925-2003): President of Uganda (1971-79). One of modern Africa's harshest dictators. Overthrown.

Ampere, Andre Marie (1775-1836): French physicist after whom the unit of electric current is named.

Amrit Kaur, Rajkumari (1887-1964): Indian freedom fighter. Health Minister in the Nehru Cabinet.

Amritraj, Vijay (b. 1953): India's Captain to Davis Cup from 1982. Only player to win Hall of Fame Tennis thrice. Actor in Hollywood movies and TV serials.

Amte, Murlidhar Devidas (Baba Amte) (b. 1914-2008): Indian social



Baba Amte

activist, best known for his work among leprosy patients. Awards: Magsaysay, Templeton, Padma Vibhushan.

Amundsen, Roald (1872-1928): Norwegian explorer, first to reach South Pole

(1911).

Anand, Dev (b.1922): Evergreen Indian film star, with the longest period as hero. *Romancing with Life* (autobiography)

Anand, Dr. Mulk Raj (1905-2004): Indian author, novelist, critic who wrote in English. Padma Bhushan; *Untouchable*, *Coolie*.

Anand, Visvanathan (b. 1969): Grandmaster. World No. 1 in speed chess. Youngest Asian to win Interna-

Author of A National Anthem

Bjornstjerne Bjornson (1832-1910) was a Norwegian novelist, poet and playwright who was active in politics and worked as a theatre director and newspaper editor. He is also the author of the Norwegian national anthem.

Who is Who

Abdullah, Sheikh (1906-'82): Indian political leader and founder of National Conference. Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir.

Abu Bakr (573-634): Muslim leader, first caliph, chosen successor to Mohammed.

Abul Fazal (1551-1602): Persian scholar and writer, patronised by Akbar.

Achebe, Chinua (b.1930): Nigerian novelist. *Arrow of God*.

Acheson, Dean (Gooderham) (1893-1971): American lawyer and statesman, Secretary of State. Promoted Marshall Plan and helped to establish NATO.

Acton, John (1834-1902): British historian who authored the adage "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely".

Adams, Gerry (b.1949): President of Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Féin.

Adlsheshalah, Malcom (1910-'94): Indian educationist and economist who was the Vice-Chancellor of Madras University and Deputy D-G of UNESCO. Padma Bhushan.

Adler, Alfred (1870-1937): Viennese psychologist who introduced inferiority complex.

Adulyadej, Bhumibol (b. 1927): King of Thailand since 1946. World's longest ruling monarch.

Advani, Lal Kishinchand (b.1927): Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha. India's



L.K. Advani

Deputy Prime Minister from 2002 to 2004. Minister for Information, Mar. '77- July '79. Home Minister, 1998-2002. Bharatiya Janata Party President until 1998, and again in 2005.

Aeschylus (524-456 B.C.): Greek dramatic poet, founder of Greek tragic drama.

Aesop (6th cent. B.C.): Semi-historical, semi-legendary fabulist, originally a slave.

Aga Khan IV (b. 1936): Spiritual head of 20 million Shia Ismaili Muslims in the world.

Agassi, Andre (b.1970): American tennis star. Wimbledon (92), US Open (94, 99), Australian Open (95, 2000, 2001, 2003), French Open (99).

Ahmed, Fakhruddin Ali (1905-'77): Freedom fighter. Union Minister from 1966. Fifth President of Indian Republic (1974-77).

Alken, Howard H. (1900-'73): U.S. mathematician, credited with designing forerunner of digital computer.

Akbar, Jalal-ud-din Mohammed (1542-1605): Mughal emperor of India, (1556-1605) known as Akbar the Great. He extended the imperial power over much of India. Promoted commerce and learning, showed a receptive interest in Hinduism and Christianity.

What is Heat? What is Temperature?

Joseph Black (1729-99) was the first to distinguish between heat and temperature. The Scottish physician who was professor at Edinburgh discovered carbon dioxide, and introduced the concepts caloric, heat of fusion, latent heat, specific heat and thermal capacity.

Arundale, George Sydney (1878-1945): An Englishman who adopted India as his home. Advocate of national education and the Swadeshi movement. Married Rukmini Devi.

Aryabhatta (476-520): Indian mathematician and astronomer. India's first satellite was named after him.

Ashapura Devi (1909-'95): Bengali writer. First woman Jnanpith award winner. *Prathomo Protishruti, Subarnoloto, Bokul Kotho.*



Ashapura Devi

Ashcroft, Peggy (1907-1991): One of the greatest actresses of British stage. Remembered for her role in the film *A Passage to India* (Oscar) and the TV series *The Jewel in the Crown*.

Asimov, Isaac (1920-92): US biochemist and writer of non-fiction. Born in Russia. *Foundation Trilogy, The Edge of Tomorrow, Inside the Atom, The Stars in their Courses.*

Asoka (3rd C. B.C.): Emperor of India. After victory in the Battle of Kalinga (261 B.C.), he renounced war and embraced Buddhism.

Asturias, Miguel Angel (1899-1974): Guatemalan writer and diplomat. *Men of Moize*, novel. Nobel Prize, 1967.

Ataturk, Kemal (Mustafa Kemal Ataturk) (1881-1938): Builder of modern Turkey, fine soldier, President of the Turkish Republic.

Attenborough, Sir Richard (b. 1923): British actor-director whose *Gandhi* (1983) won 8 Oscars.

Attila The Hun (406-53): Barbarian leader who helped to bring about the fall of the Roman Empire.

Attlee, Clement Richard (1883-1967): Labour Prime Minister of Britain, 1945-51. His Government granted independence to India.

Auden, Wystan Hugh (1907-'73): Poet, b. in England, a naturalised American. Professor of poetry at Oxford.

Augustus, Caius Octavianus (63 B.C.-A.D. 14): First Roman emperor.

Aurangzeb (1618-1707): Mughal emperor of India; Empire reached its fullest extent, but he estranged Hindus and Sikhs.

Aurobindo, Sri (Aurobindo Ghosh) (1872-1950): Indian philosopher, a revolutionary in his early days. Set up an Ashram in Pondichery. Retired into seclusion in 1926.

Austen, Jane (1775-1817): British novelist. *Emma, Pride and Prejudice.*

Ayyankali (1863-1941): Leader of Harijans, in Kerala. Mahatma Gandhi called him 'pulayaraja'. Great organiser.

Ayyar, Alladi Krishnaswami, Sir (1883-1953): Scholar and brilliant lawyer of Tamil Nadu.

Azad, Abul Kalam (1888-1958): Indian freedom-fighter, staunch nationalist; first Education Minister of free India. Bharat Ratna, 1992. *India Wins Freedom.*

Azad, Chandra Sekhar (1906-'31): Indian revolutionary; involved in Non-Cooperation Movement, the Assembly bomb incident, Delhi conspiracy, Lahore conspiracy.

Azana, Manuel (1880-1940): PM of Spain from 1931 to '33 and President

Death In A Volcanic Crater

The Greek philosopher Empedocles, who was heralded by his followers as a god, died by leaping into the volcanic crater of Mount Etna while attempting to prove his divinity. He held that the world is composed of four elements - air, fire, earth and water - which are governed by the opposing forces of love and discord.

tional Master's title. World Champion 2000-2002 (FIDE), 2007-present (undisputed). No.1 on the July 2008 FIDE ratings list.

Anderson, Hans Christian (1805-75): Danish fairy-tale writer, novelist, playwright and poet.

Anderson, Marian (1897-1993): American contralto, who pioneered acceptance of black singers in concert and opera worlds.

Andrews, Charles Freer (1871-1940): Englishman who adopted India as his home, and worked with Gandhi. Known as 'Deenabandhu'.

Angstrom, Anders Jonas (1814-74): Swedish physicist who founded the science of spectroscopy. The angstrom unit of measurement is named after him.

Annadural, C.N. (1909-'69): Most popular Chief Minister (1967) of Tamil Nadu, and eminent writer in Tamil. Formed Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

Annan, Kofi (b.1938): Ghanaian-born UN Secretary General, 1997-2007. Nobel Prize, 2001.

Anne, Queen (1665-1714): Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. (1702-1714).

Ansari, Mohammad Hamid (b.1937-): Vice President of India since August, 2007. Scholar-diplomat-writer. Formerly Chairman of National Commission for Minorities, Ambassador, V-C of AMU. Padma Shri (1984).

Antonioni, Michelangelo (b.1912-2007): Italian avant-garde motion-picture director and screenwriter, whose films are known for their haunting images of human isolation. Oscar, 1995. *L'Avventura*, *Blow Up*.

Antonius Marcus (Mark Antony) (c.

83-30 B.C.): Roman politician and general; triumvir. Fell in love with Cleopatra; committed suicide.

Antony, St. (c. 251-356): Father of Christian monasticism and founder of religious community life.

Ao, Talimeren Dr. (1916-'98): First captain of independent India's Olympic football team.

Aquinas, Thomas St. (c. 1225-'74): Italian theologian and scholastic philosopher.

Arafat, Yasser (1929-2004): (Mohammed Abdel-Raouf Arafat al-Oudwa al-Husseini) Palestinian President until death. Leader of PLO from 1968; Shared Nobel Peace Prize, '94.

Archer, Thomas (1668-1743): British architect. Practitioner of Baroque style.

Archimedes (287-212 B.C.): Greek mathematician and engineer. Known for Archimedes Principle. Invented Archimedean screw.

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.): Greek teacher and philosopher, pupil of Plato, tutor to the young prince Alexander of Macedon.

Armstrong, Louis 'Satchmo' (1900-71): American jazz trumpeter, and singer, a popular entertainer of 20th century



Neil Armstrong

Armstrong, Neil (b. 1930): American astronaut, the first man to set foot on the moon, (Apollo XI mission) 21 July 1969.

Arnold, Mathew (1822-'88): English poet and critic. *The Scholar Gypsy*.

A Statue for Andersen

The statue of the Little Mermaid by the harbour in Copenhagen commemorates the city's association with the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen, famous for his fairy tales. 'The Little Mermaid' is one of his 168 fairy tales.

1944): The first woman Air Marshal of Indian Air Force. Received AVSM and VSM.

Bannerjee, Surendranath (1848-1952): One of the first Indians to qualify the ICS examination. Held the presidency of Indian National Congress twice.

Bannerjee, Womesh Chandra (1844-1906): First President of Indian National Congress, Migrated to England in 1902.

Bannister, Sir Roger (b.1929): British athlete and doctor who became the first man to run a mile in four minutes in 1954.

Barnard, Christiaan Neethling (1922-2001): South African surgeon who performed the first human heart transplant operation.

Bartok, Bela (1881-1945): Hungarian composer and pianist.

Baskerville, John (1706-'75): British typographer who is known for the widely used Baskerville typeface.

Basu, Jyoti (b. 1914): Veteran communist leader. CM of West Bengal for a record five consecutive terms until Nov. 2000.

Batistuta, Gabriel (b. 1969): Former Argentine international footballer. Retired 2005.

Batuta, Ibn (1304-1378): Traveller from North Africa who spent eight years in India. His travelogue is a source for the political history of the Khalji and Tuglaq dynasties of the Delhi sultanate.

Beatles, The (Paul McCartney, John Lennon (1940-80), George Harrison (1943-2001), Ringo Starr): English vocal and instrumental rock 'n' roll quartet whose highly original and melodic songs

held the attention of youth all over the world in the 60s.

Beaverbrook, Lord (1879-1964): British financier, statesman and newspaper owner.

Becker, Boris (b. 1967): German tennis player. Youngest Wimbledon champion, 1985, 1986, 1989. Retired in 1997.

Becket, Samuel (1906-'89): Irish playwright and novelist. Nobel Prize, 1969.

Becket, Thomas (1118-'70): Saint and martyr. Archbishop of Canterbury who made the position of the church his first care and, came into conflict with King Henry II. Murdered in Canterbury Cathedral.

Beckham, David (b.1975): British



David Beckham

football player with a huge fan following. His marriage to Victoria Adams, otherwise known as Posh Spice, has both made them targets for the tabloid press.

Bedi, Bishen Singh (b. 1946): Indian cricketer. Captain for

33 tests.

Bedi, Kiran (b. 1949): First woman Indian Police Service officer (1972). A former Asian Games women's tennis champion. Magsaysay award, 1995. UN medal for outstanding service, 2004.

Beethoven, Ludwig Van (1770-1827): German musician and composer. His symphonies, 9 in number, rank as the greatest ever written.

Begin, Menachem (1913-'92): Israeli Prime Minister, 1977-'83. Made peace

Dead Sea Scrolls to be Digitalised

The Dead Sea scrolls are to be digitalised and made available for all to see. The 2000-year-old scrolls were found in the late 1940s in caves near the Dead Sea east of Jerusalem.

from 1936 to '39. Spanish Civil War sent him into exile.

Azharudin, Mohammed (b. 1963): Indian cricketer, former Captain. Made a world record of 9079 runs in one-day internationals in June '99. Accused of involvement in match-fixing scam.

Azmi, Shabana (b. 1954): Indian film actress who won the national award five times. Social activist, former Rajya Sabha member. *Ankur, Arth, Khandhor, Poor, God-mother.*



Shabana Azmi

Babar, Zahirud-din

Mohammed (1483-1530): Founder of the Mughal dynasty which ruled northern India for nearly three centuries.

Babbage, Charles (1792-1871): English mathematician. His primitive 'calculating machines' were the precursors of the modern computer.

Bach, Johann Sebastian (1685-1750): Prolific German baroque composer.

Bachchan, Amitabh (b.1942): India's most popular film star ever. Over 100 movies. M.P. for a short while. *Zanjeer, Sholay, Diwor, Block.* National award for Best Actor, 2005. Son of poet **Harivansh Rai Bachchan (1907-2003)**, known for his work *Modhusholo* and autobiography in 4 volumes *Kyo Bhoolun, Kya Yad Karoon*. Amitabh's son Abhishek, leading film star.

Bacon, Francis (1561-1626): English philosopher and essayist. *Novum Organum.*

Bacon, Roger (c.1214-92): English

philosopher and scientist, called 'Doctor Mirabilis'. First European to describe the process for making gunpowder.

Baden Powell, Robert (1857-1941): Founder of Boy Scouts (1908). His sister Agnes founded Girl Guides (1910).

Bahadur Shah II (1775-1862): The last king of Mughal empire. Took part in the 1857 war of Independence in exile.

Bahuguna, Sundarlal (b.1927): Environmentalist. Known for the Chipko movement and fight against the building of the Tehri Dam.

Bajaj, Jarnalal (1886-1942): Mahatma Gandhi's associate, founded Satyagraha Ashram at Wardha; Gifted Segaon village to Gandhi who named it Sevagram.

Baker, Laurie (1917-2007): British born Indian architect who has pioneered innovative low-cost, environment-friendly housing.

Bala Saraswati, T. (b.1918): Foremost exponent of the Bharatanatyam style of dance.

Balzac, Honore de (1799-1850): French novelist. *La Comedie Humaine.*

Banabhatta (7th c.): Indian Sanskrit scholar and poet. *Kodombori, Horshu Chorit.*

Bancroft, George (1800-1891): American historian who wrote the 10-volume *History of the United States.*

Bandaranaike, Solomon (1899-1959): PM of Ceylon from 1956 until assassination. Widow Sirimavo (1916-2000) became world's first woman PM, 1960. In 1994, daughter Chandrika Kumaratunga became President and Sirimavo PM of Sri Lanka.

Bandopadhyay, Padmavathy (b.

From Rs. 50 to Rs. 200,000

Rs. 2 lakh was offered by U.K.'s Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to Ratilal Mancharam Mandali for a matchbox - sized version of 'Macbeth'. Mandali picked up the gem from a Sunday market in 1975, for Rs. 50.

Magsaysay award, 1977.

Bhavabhuti (8th c.): A great Sanskrit dramatist. *Malatimadhava*.

Bhave, Vinoba (1895-1982): Disciple of Gandhi who led the Bhoodan movement. Bharat Ratna 1983, first Magsaysay award.

Bhutia, Baichung

(b. 1976): Indian footballer from Sikkim. At 15, highest goal-getter in the Subroto Mukherjee tournament in Delhi. Arjuna Award.



Bhutto, Zulfikar

Ali (1928-'79): Baichung Bhutia Prime Minister of Pakistan who was ousted (1977) by Gen. Zia-ul Haq whose government executed him. His daughter **Benazir Bhutto (b. 1953-2007)** became Prime Minister, 1988- the first woman to head a modern Islamic state. Ousted in 1990.

Bimbisara (c. 544 - 493 BC): Ruler of the kingdom of Magadha, which he expanded. Built city Rajagriha. Patron to Mahavira and the Buddha.

Bindra, Abhinav (b. 1983): Shooter from Chandigarh, won gold in 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Bismarck, Otto Von (1815-'98): German statesman, chief architect of the German empire, known as 'the man of blood and iron'.

Blake, William (1757-1827): English poet, philosopher, artist. *Songs of Innocence*.

Bloch, Ernest (1880-1959): Swiss-born US composer, famous for his chamber music. *Israel Symphony* (1916).

Boccaccio, Giovanni (1313-'75): Italian author and humanist; father of the novel. *Decameron*, *Life of Dante*.

Bohr, Niels (1885 -1962): Danish physicist. Nobel Prize, for work on atomic structure.

Boleyn, Anne (1507-'36): Queen of Henry VIII of Britain and mother of Queen Elizabeth I. Beheaded.

Bolívar, Simón (1783-1830): South American revolutionist, called the Liberator. He founded Grand Colombia (now Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador).

Bolkiah, Hassanal (b. 1946): Sultan of Brunei. One of the richest men in the world.

Bolt, Usain (b. 1986): Jamaican sprinter who holds the world records for 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x 100 metres relay, all set at the 2008 Beijing olympics. First man to win all three events at a single olympics since Carl Lewis in 1984.

Bonfield, Margaret Grace (1873-1953): Labour politician and trade unionist. First British woman to hold cabinet office-minister of labour, 1923-31.

Boole, George (1815-'64): English mathematician best known for his invention of Boolean algebra.

Booth, William (1829-1912): English religious leader, founder of the salvation Army.

Border, Allan (b. 1956): Former Australian cricket captain who holds the world record of 156 Test matches. 11,174 test runs.

Bordoloi, Gopinath (1890-1950): One of the makers of modern Assam. Educationist. CM of Assam twice before Independence. Bharat Ratna, 1999.

Doctor Mirabilis

English philosopher and scientist Roger Bacon (1214-92) was called 'Doctor Mirabilis' because of his learning in magic and alchemy. He was the first European to describe the process for making gunpowder.

h Egypt (1979). Nobel Peace Prize, 1981.

afonte, Harry (b.1927): American entertainer, civil rights leader.

li, Alexander Graham (1847-1903): Scottish-born inventor of the telephone.

on Gurion, David (1886-1973): The 1st Prime Minister of Israel, 1948-63.

edict XVI (b. 1927): The Pope, head of the Roman Catholic Church since April 2005. Formerly Josef Ratzinger, a German archbishop. Succeeded John Paul II.

negal, Shyam (b.1934): Indian film director. *Akrosh, Mandi, Bhorat Ek Khoj.*

nes, Eduard (1884-1948): Czech statesman, President from 1935 to '38.

ntham, Jeremy (1748-1832): British philosopher who developed the theory of utilitarianism.

rry, Halle (b. 1968): US film actress. 1st black actress to win Oscar for best actress. *Monster's Ball.*

rtolucci, Bernardo (b. 1940): Italian film director. *The Lost Emperor* won 9 Oscars in 1987.

sant, Annie (1847-1933): An Irish woman, staunch supporter of Indian independence movement. Social worker, educationist and reformer. Set up Home Rule League. President of INC, 1917. Established Theosophical Society of India.



Annie Besant

essemer, Sir Henry (1813-'98): British metallurgist who invented the process of converting cast

iron direct into steel.

Bhabha, Homi J. (1909-'66): The Indian scientist who was mainly responsible for creating the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Described as the father of Indian nuclear science.

Bhagwan Dass, Dr. (1869-1958): Vedic scholar, Indian freedom fighter. Bharat Ratna.

Bhagwati, Prof. Jagdish (b. 1934): India-born U.S. Professor of Economics at Columbia University.

Bharat Muni (5th c.): Sanskrit writer. *Notyo Shostro.*

Bharati, Subramanya (1881-1921): Indian poet, patriot and philosopher. His impact on Tamil literature is great. Title 'Bhavati' conferred by the Raja of Ettayapuram, Tamil Nadu.

Bhasa (5th c.): Sanskrit playwright. *Swopno Yougondhoroyona, Charudatta.*

Bhaskara I (7th c.AD): Indian astronomer who was a contemporary of Brahmagupta.

Bhaskaracharya II (1114-c.1185): Great Indian mathematician and astronomer, who was the first to use the decimal system in a written work, invented the + and - convention, and used letters to represent unknown quantities as in modern algebra. *Sidhanta Shiromoni.*

Bhatia, Sabeer (b. 1968): Indian-born co-founder of Hotmail. He sold Hotmail to Microsoft for US\$400 million.

Bhatnagar, Shanti Swarup (1894-1955): Indian scientist who created a chain of national laboratories. Director of CSIR, Secretary to AEC, Chairman of UGC. Science awards after his name.

Bhatt, Ela (b.1933): Emancipator of women in the self-employed sector.

The Laughing Philosopher

Democritus (460-370 B.C.), the Greek philosopher, was known as 'the laughing philosopher' because of his wry amusement at human foibles. He is known for the atomistic theory he developed from Leucippus.

educationist, who, as a (blind) teacher of the blind, devised the touch system of reading and writing for the blind.

Brando, Marlon (1924-2004): Outstanding American stage and film actor.

On the Waterfront,
The Godfather.

Brandt, Willy (1913-'92): First

Social Democratic chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, 1969-74. Nobel Prize, 1971.

Brezhnev, Leonid (1906-'82): Soviet

President (1977); succeeded Khrushchev as First Secretary of the Communist Party, (1964-82).

Bronte, Charlotte (1816-'55): One of the three Bronte sisters, forceful novelist, author of *Jane Eyre*. Her sister Emily (1818-'48) wrote *Wuthering Heights*; and another sister Anne (1820-'49) wrote *Agnes Grey*.

Brooke, Rupert (1887-1915): English poet. Fought in WWI. *The Soldier*, *Clouds*, *The Dead*.

Brown, Dan (b. 1964): American author of best selling novel *The Da Vinci Code* (2003) with 36 million copies in print.

Brown, John (1800-'59): Hero of the song 'John Brown's Body'. An anti-slavery crusader who tried to start a slave revolt, was caught, and hanged.

Browning, Robert (1812-'89): English poet of the Victorian Era, famous for his dramatic monologues. Wife Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-'61) was poet too.

Bruce, Robert (1274-1329): Scottish

national leader. King in 1306; defeated Edward II of England in 1314.

Brundtland, Gro Harlem (b.1939): Norway's first woman PM. She was PM in '81, '86, '90. Active environmentalist. Former Director General, WHO.

Brutus, Marcus Junius (85-42 B.C.): Roman senator famed as a conspirator against Julius Caesar.

Bubka, Sergei (b.1964): World's best pole vaulter from Ukraine. In '94, at 6.14m. World title six times.

Buck, Pearl S. (1892-1973): American author. Nobel Prize (1938), Pulitzer Prize, (1932). *The Good Earth*.

Bunin, Ivan (1870-1953): The first Russian to win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1933, after a long rivalry with Maxim Gorky.

Bunyan, John (1628-'88): A popular preacher and religious thinker. *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Burke, Edmund (1729-'97): British parliamentarian, political philosopher; and orator.

Burns, Robert (1759-'96): Scotland's unofficial national poet

Bush, George Herbert Walker (b. 1924): American President, 1988-'92. Son George W. Bush (b.1946) 43rd U S President since Jan 20, 2001.

Butler, Samuel (1835-1902): English scholar, novelist. *The Way of All Flesh*.

Byrd, Richard Evelyn (1888-1957): American explorer. The first to fly over both North and South poles.

Byron, George Gordon (1788-1824): English romantic poet. At 20, he published *Hours of Idleness*; *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812).

Cabot, John (1425/50-c. 1500): Ital-



Marlon Brando

Marx's Dissertation

Karl Marx's doctoral dissertation was on 'The Difference between the Philosophies of Nature in Democritus and Epicurus'. Marx studied at Bonn and then Berlin University.

Borg, Bjorn (b. 1956): Swedish tennis player. World's top player in the late 70s. Fifth consecutive Wimbledon in 1980.

Borlaug, Norman Ernest (b. 1914): American wheat scientist responsible for the 'green revolution'. Nobel Peace Prize, 1970.

Borodin, Alexander Porfirevich (1833-87): One of the 'Russian Five' group of composers.

Borromini, Francesco (1599-1667): Italian architect. One of the three masters of Roman Baroque, the other two being Bernini and Pietro da Cortona.

Bosch, Hieronymus (1450-1516): Flemish painter. *The Garden of Earthly Delights, The Temptation of St. Anthony.*

Bose, Amar Gopal (b.1929): American-born Indian professor of electrical engineering at MIT. In 1964, he founded the Bose Corporation, which specializes in designing and producing high quality sound systems.

Bose, Jagadish Chandra (1858-1937): Doyen of Indian science. Did original work in electricity.

Bose, Nandalal (1883-1966): Father of Modern Painting in India. Padma Bhushan.

Bose, Netaji Subhas Chandra (1897-1945): One of the leaders of India's freedom struggle. Formed the Indian National Army in 1943 to fight the British with the help of Japan. Reportedly killed in an air crash.

Bose, Satyendra Nath (1894-1974): Indian physicist after whom an elementary particle, the boson is named.

Boswell, James (1740-'95): Scottish author of the celebrated biography, *The Life of Samuel Johnson.*

Botha, Louis (1862-1919): The first PM of the Union of South Africa, 1910.

Botham, Ian Terence (b. 1955):



Ian Botham

English cricketer and coach, a great all-rounder with 14 test centuries (5200 runs) and 373 test wickets. First player to score a century and take 10 wickets in a test (1979).

Botvinnik, Mikhail (1911-'95): Russian

electrical engineer who used his scientific training to hold the world chess title three times (1948-57, 58-60, 61-63).

Bourguiba, Habib (1903-2000): First President of Tunisia (1957-87). Proclaimed president for life in 1975. A coup overthrew him.

Boyd, William (b. 1952): British novelist. *The New Confessions.*

Bradman, Sir Donald (1908-2001): Australian cricket legend. Captain, 1936-48. 6996 runs in 52 games (average 99.94) including 29 centuries and a highest score of 334.

Bragg, Sir William Lawrence (1890-1971): English physicist born in Australia. With his father Sir William Henry Bragg (1862-1942), won Nobel Prize for Physics (1915).

Brahmagupta (598-680): The Indian mathematician who was the first to treat zero as a number. *Brahma Siddhanta.*

Brahms, Johannes (1833-97): German composer, who moved to Vienna. Orchestral works: four symphonies, two piano concertos and a concerto for violin.

Braille, Louis (1809-'52): French

Bentham's Skeleton

The clothed skeleton of English philosopher and social reformer Jeremy Bentham is preserved in the University College which he founded. He is best known as a proponent of utilitarianism.

post-impressionist painter.

Chakravarty, Nikhil (1913-'98): Indian journalist, first Chairman of Prasar Bharati Board.

Chamberlain, Neville (1869-1940): English statesman, Prime Minister 1937-40.

Chan, Jackie (b.1954): Movie star from Hong Kong. Made 40 films since '76, when he was touted as the new Bruce Lee.

Chanakya (also known as Kautilya) (4th century B.C.): Author of *Artha Shastra*, an authentic book on statecraft. Prime Minister to Chandragupta Maurya.



Jackie Chan

Chandler, Raymond Thornton (1888-1959): American detective story writer. Created cynical private detective Philip Marlowe.

Chandrasekhar (1927-2007): Indian politician, parliamentarian, socialist. President, Socialist Janata Party from 1977. Prime Minister, Nov. '90 to June '91.

Chandrasekhar, Subrahmanyan (1910-'95): Born at Lahore, an American citizen; nephew of Nobel laureate C. V. Raman. Won the Nobel prize for physics in 1930.

Chaplin, Charles Spencer (Charlie) (1889-1977): Film star comedian, first international screen star, with more than 50 years' achievement. Born in London, he went to the United States in 1916. *The Kid*, *The Gold Rush*, *Limelight*, *The Tramp*.

Charlemagne (724-814): (Charles

the Great). King of the Franks and Lombards, he founded a new Roman Empire comprising Gaul, Italy, and large parts of Spain and Germany; crowned Emperor. **Charles (Philip Arthur George) (b. 1948):** Prince of Wales, eldest son of Qn. Elizabeth II; married Diana Spencer ('81) divorced ('96), married Camilla Parker Bowles (2005).

Charles I (1600-'49): King of England, Scotland and Ireland, 1625. Attempted to rule without parliament; Beheaded.

Chatterji, Bankim Chandra (1838-'94): Poet, novelist and a great patriot of India (Bengal). *Vande Mataram* (Anand Math).

Chattopadhyay, Kamaladevi (1903-'88): The high priestess of Indian culture, arts, theatre and literature. Magsaysay award, 1966.

Chaucer, Geoffrey (1340-1400): English poet. *The Canterbury Tales*.

Chaudhuri, Nirad C. (1897-1999): Indian writer, and social critic, wrote in English and lived in England. *Autobiography of an Unknown Indian*, *A Passage to England*.

Chawla, Kalpana (b. 1961-2003): The first Indian American space woman. Travelled aboard space shuttle Columbia in Nov. '97. Died on her second space mission aboard Colombia.

Chekhov, Anton (1860-1904): Russian dramatist and short story writer. *Uncle Vanya*.

Chembal Vaidya-natha Bhagavathar (1889-1974): Great (Carnatic) musician of India.

Cherenkov, Pavel Alekseyich (1904-1990): Soviet physicist. Discovered Cherenkov effect. Shared Nobel Prize

Art by Criminals

Raw Art (Art Brut) refers to spontaneous and untrained artworks, often by criminals and the mentally ill. The term was coined by Jean Dubuffet.

ian explorer. Discovered Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Son Sebastian Cabot (1476-1557) made voyages to the New World.

Cabral, Pedro Alvarez (c.1467-c.1520): Portuguese navigator, discovered Brazil.

Caesar, Julius (c. 101-44 B.C.): A great Roman general. Invaded Britain (55 B.C.), defeated Pompey whom he pursued to Egypt, where he established Cleopatra as queen. At Rome he became dictator, and his reforms include the Julian calendar. Murdered.

Calvin, John (1509-'64): French Protestant reformer and theologian.

Cama, Bhikaji (1861-1936): Born in Bombay, she moved to Europe where she met Dadabhai Naoroji and other revolutionaries. Her home in Paris served as headquarters for Indian rebels against British rule. Imprisoned for revolutionary activities, she returned to India in 1935.

Camus, Albert (1913-'60): French novelist, dramatist; native of Algeria. *The Price of Justice*, and *L' Etranger*. Nobel prize, 1957.

Capra, Frank (1897-1991): American moviemaker, a trendsetter who grabbed many firsts in film techniques.

Cardin, Pierre (b.1922): Internationally known Master designer. The haute couture czar with licencees in 125 countries.

Carliappa, Field Marshal. K.M (1900-'93): First Indian C-in-C of Indian Army, 1943-'53.

Carlyle, Thomas (1795-1881): Scottish author. *Heroes and Hero Worship*.

Carnegie, Dale (1888-1955): American writer famous for self improvement

manuals.

Carter, James Earl (b. 1924): American Democratic President 1977-'81.

Cartier-Bresson, Henri (1908-2004) One of the master photographers of 20th century.

Cartland, Barbara (1902-2000) American best selling author, who wrote 723 books. 1b. copies sold in 36 languages.

Carver, George Washington (1864-1943): American agricultural chemist.

Castro, Fidel (b. 1927): Cuban revolutionary and political leader. President of Cuba. In 1959 overthrew a police



Fidel Castro

state. In power for the longest period. Conquering after a surgery in 2006. Castro handed over power to brother Raul on July 31, 2006.

Catherine de Medici (1519-89): Of France; Queen con-

sort of Henry II, regent of France.

Catherine II (The Great) (1729-'96): Tsarina of Russia, a monarch of the Enlightenment.

Cave, Edward (1691-1754): English publisher. Founded *The Gentleman's Magazine*.

Caxton, William (1422-'91): the first English printer and publisher.

Celcius, Anders (1701-'44): Swedish inventor, astronomer. Devised (1742) Celcius or centigrade temperature scale.

Cervantes, Saavedra Miguel de (1547-1616): Spanish novelist and dramatist. *Don Quixote*.

Cezanne, Paul (1839-1906): French

The Vienna Circle

This was a group of about 30 to 40 thinkers who met regularly in Vienna between the two world wars to discuss philosophy. The inner sanctum of the group were called the 'Schlick Circle', organised by the physics professor Mortiz Schlick.

Colins, Lt. Col. Eileen (b.1956): The first female to take over the controls of a NASA spaceship.

Collins, Wilkie (1824-'89): British novelist, who collaborated with Charles Dickens. *The Woman in White*, *The Moonstone*.

Columbus, Christopher (c.1451-1506): Italian explorer known as the discoverer of the Americas. In 1492 discovered the Bahamas, Cuba, and other West Indian Islands.

Comenius, John Amos (1592-1670): Czech religious leader and educational reformer who wrote *The Visible World in Pictures*.

Comte, Auguste (1798-1857): French philosopher. Founder of Positivism.

Confucius or K'ung Fu-Tse (c. 551-478 B.C.): Chinese philosopher, founder of the system of cosmology, politics, and ethics known as Confucianism.

Connery, Sean (b.1930): Scottish actor who won acclaim as screen's secret agent James Bond.

Conrad, Joseph (1857-1924): British novelist and short story writer born in Poland. Was a ship's officer before. *Heart of Darkness*, *Nostromo*, *The Secret Agent*.

Constantine I (285-337): Roman emperor who founded the Christian empire. Known as Constantine the Great. Rebuilt Byzantium as his capital and renamed it Constantinople.

Cook, Captain James (1728-'79): English navigator. Discovered the Sandwich Is. (Hawaiian).

Cook, Thomas (1908-'82): British Baptist priest turned tour operator, established Thomas Cook. Father of modern

tourism.

Copernicus, Nicolas (1473-1543): Polish astronomer; considered founder of modern astronomy. Put forward the novel theory that the planets, including the Earth, revolve round the sun.



Thomas Cook

Cornwallis, Lord (1738-1805): Governor General of India, 1786. Laid the foundation of the Indian Civil Service.

Correa, Charles (b.1930): India's eminent architect, educated at Michigan and MIT.

Correggio (1494-1534): Italian painter of the Renaissance era. Adoration of the Shepherds.

Cromwell, Oliver (1599-1658): English soldier, statesman and leader of the Puritan revolution.

Cronje, Hansie (1970-2002): Former S. African cricket captain who died in a plane crash. Involved in 'match-fixing' scandal.

Crookes, Sir William (1832-1919): British chemist and physicist. Inventor of radiometer and Crooke's tube. Discovered thallium.

Crow, Russell (b.1965): Oscar (*Gladiator*, 2000) winning actor, born in New Zealand, raised in Australia; wife Danielle Spencer.

Cruise, Tom (b.1962): Actor. No. 1 in *Forbes* 2006 list of world's 100 most powerful stars. Annual earnings \$67m.

Cuellar, Javier Perez De (b.1920): Peruvian diplomat. UN Sec.General, 1982-91.

Rasputin's End

The Russian monk Rasputin was killed and dumped in River Neva by a group of nobles led by Prince Feliks Yusupov and Grand Duke Dimitry Pavlovich, revenging his influence over Tsarina Alexandria.

1958).

Ihernenko, Konstantian Ustinovich (1911-'85): Soviet politician. Succeeded Andropov as General Secretary of the Communist Party.

Iheshire, Leonard (1918-'92): The World War II hero who set up a global network of houses for the disabled.

Ihesterton, Gilbert Keith (1874-1936): English essayist, novelist and poet.

Ihevalier, Maurice (1888-1972): French film actor, singer who became an international filmstar. *Love Me Tonight, Gigi.*

I Chiang Kai-Shek (1887-1975): Chinese general. After Sun Yat-sen's death (1925), as commander of the Kuomintang army, he attempted to unite China; in 1949 retired to Formosa (Taiwan) after the victory of the Communists.

I Chichester, Sir Francis (1901-'72): English yachtsman, aviator, sailed around world single-handed in *Gipsy Moth IV*, (1966-'67).

I Chidambaram, Rajagopala (b. 1936): Chief scientific advisor to Govt. of India, led the Pokhran nuclear test team (1998).

I Chomsky, Noam (b. 1928): American scholar, commentator on global politics and one of world's most distinguished linguists.

I Chopin, Fré'de'ric Francois (1810-'49): Polish pianist, composer; 'the poet of the piano'.

I Choudhary, Sarbari Roy (b. 1933): Indian sculptor. Works include portraits and abstract bronzes.

I Christie, Agatha (1890-1976): Eng-

lish writer of detective fiction. Her two detectives are Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. Play *Mousetrap* has run in London for over four decades.

I Churchill, Sir Winston (1874-1965): British statesman, soldier and author.



Winston Churchill

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence 1940-45; Prime Minister, 1951-55. Nobel Prize for Literature.

I Cicero, Marcus Tullius (106-43 B.C.): Roman orator, statesman, executed by Antony.

I Clemenceau, Georges (1841-1929): French statesman who was premier twice. Led the French delegation at the Versailles peace conference.

I Cleopatra (69-30 B.C.): Egyptian queen. Became joint ruler, with brother Ptolemy XII, at age of 17; was wife of Julius Caesar and later mistress of Mark Antony. Committed suicide.

I Clinton, William Jefferson (b. 1946): Dynamic Democrat leader who became 42nd U.S. President (Jan. '93). Re-elected Nov. '96. Autobiography *My Life* a best seller.

I Clijsters, Kim (b.1983): Belgian World No.2 tennis star. Retired in 2007.

I Cockerell, Christopher (1910-1999): English inventor of the hovercraft.

I Coleridge, Samuel Taylor (1772-1834): English poet, critic and philosopher.

I Colette (1873-1954): French novelist whose early works were published under her first husband's pseudonym, Willy.

What is CoBra?

It is a painting group that drew members from Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam (CoBra). It was founded in 1948.

Deodhar Trophy is named.

Desai, Bhulabhai (1877-1946): Indian national leader who defended Bardoli peasants before Broomfield committee. Founded Swadeshi Sabha to boycott foreign goods.

Desai, Lord Meghnad (b. 1940): Professor of Economics at London School of Economics. British peer.

Desai, Mahadev (1892-1942): Freedom fighter. He was personal secretary to Mahatma Gandhi. Edited *Independent* and *Navjivan*.

Desai, Morarji Ranchodji (1896-1995): Indian politician who was Prime Minister from Mar. '77 to July '79. Staunch Gandhian. Chief Minister of Bombay (1952-'56). Union Minister, 1956-63. Deputy P.M. & Finance Minister, 1967-69. Bharat Ratna.

Descartes, Rene (1596-1650): French mathematician, pioneer of modern philosophy.

Deshpande, Purushottam Lakshman (1919-2000): Veteran Marathi writer and performer known as Pu La.

Deve Gowda, Hardanahalli Doddegowda (b. 1933): Janata Dal leader. India's PM June, '96 to Apr. '97. Formerly CM of Karnataka.

Dewey, Melvil (1851-1931): American library pioneer, originator of Dewey decimal system of book classification.

Dhawan, Satish (1920-2002): Scientist, Director of IIS, Bangalore, Chairman of ISRO. Padma Vibhushan 1981.

Dhyan Chand (1906-'79): Hockey wizard. Olympic gold in Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, Berlin 1936. Padmabhushan.

Diana, Princess of Wales (1961-'97):

Born Diana Spencer, married Prince Charles of Britain (1981), separated (1992), divorced (1996). Mother of Prince William and Prince Henry. Killed in a car crash.



Princess Diana

Dickens, Charles (1812-'70): Popular English novelist of the 19th cent. *David Copperfield*, *Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist*.

Dickinson, Emily (1830-'86): American poet. Published almost nothing in her lifetime.

Diesel, Rudolf (1858-1913): German engineer, inventor of an internal combustion engine which he patented in 1893.

Dietrich, Marlene (1901-'93): Actress and singer, native of Berlin who flourished in the USA. Blue Angel.

Dior, Christian (1905-'57): French fashion designer.

Disney, Walter Elias ('Walt') (1901-'66): American film cartoonist famous for animated cartoons. Creator of characters *Mickey Mouse* (1928) and *Donald Duck* (1936).

Disraeli, Benjamin (1804-'81): British statesman and novelist. Prime Minister, 1868 and 1874-'80.

Dix, Otto (1891-1969): German painter and engraver. Jailed in 1939 for an alleged plot to kill Hitler. Post-war themes included religion.

Donahue, Phil (b.1936): The man who virtually invented the single topic TV talk.

Donatello (1386-1466): Florentine

The Greatest Show on Earth

Phineas Barnum was a US showman. His circus, established by his rival, J.A. Bailey to become the Barnum and Bailey, scribed the merger 'the greatest show on earth'.

Culkin, Macaulay (b.1981): Child star of the 1990 film *Home Alone*.

Curie, Marie Skłodowska (1867-1934): Scientist, (b. Poland) who jointly with husband Pierre Curie discovered radium for which they shared the Nobel Prize for physics (1903). She won Nobel Prize again for chemistry (1911).



Marie Curie

Curson, George Nathaniel (1859-1925): British statesman. Viceroy of India (1899-1905). Foreign Secretary (1919-24).

Cushing, Harvey (1869-1939): American surgeon whose pioneering techniques for brain surgery improved neuro-surgery tremendously. Cushing's syndrome, named after him.

Daimler, Gottlieb (1834-1900): German engineer, inventor. He improved internal combustion engine, furthering car industry.

Dalai Lama (b. 1935): (Tenzing Gyatso) Spiritual leader of Tibet. Fled to India after Tibetan uprising, and established Govt-in-exile at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh, India (1959). Nobel Peace Prize (1989).

Dam, Henrik (1895-1976): Danish biochemist who discovered vitamin K. Nobel Prize.

Damen, Father Joseph (1840-'89): Originally Joseph de Veuster. Belgian Catholic missionary. Worked until his death from leprosy in leper colony on Olokeai, Hawaii.

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321): Italian poet. *The Divine Comedy*.

Dange, Shripat Amrit (1899-1994): Leader of Communist Party of India, parliamentarian.

Darius I (548-486 B.C.): Persian king and founder of Persepolis.

Darwin, Charles Robert (1809-'82): English naturalist who argued that the evolution of present-day morphology had been built up by the gradual and opportunistic mechanism of natural selection. *On the Origin of Species*.

Daudet, Alphonse (1840-1897): French short-story writer and novelist whose first novel was written at age 14. *Monday Tales, The Nabob*.

Davis, Bette (1908-'89): Originally Ruth Elizabeth Davis. American film actress.

Davis, Dwight F. (1879-1945): American who donated the tennis trophy, Davis Cup. He played for the US team in the opening contest.

Davy, Sir Humphry (1778-1829): British chemist and inventor of the Davy miner's safety lamp.

De Mille, Cecil (1881-1959): American film producer-director. Grand old man of Hollywood. *The Ten Commandments*.

De Quincey, Thomas (1785-1859): English essayist and critic.

De Sica, Vittorio (1901-'74): Italian film director and actor. *Shoeshine, Bicycle Thieves*.

Defoe, Daniel (1660-1731): English political writer; also author of *Robinson Crusoe*.

Demosthenes (384-322 B.C.): Greek orator who roused the Athenians to resist the growing power of Philip of Macedon.

Deodhar D.B. (1892-1993): The Grand Old Man of Indian Cricket, after whom

Our American Cousin

The play Abraham Lincoln was watching when he was shot by actor John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theater, Washington (1865) was 'Our American Cousin'.

elist who authored the historical thriller *The Name of the Rose*, and the novel *Foucault's Pendulum*. Also wrote *A Theory of Semiotics*

Edison, Thomas Alva (1847-1931): American inventor who held more than 1300 U.S. and foreign patents for his inventions: the phonograph, the incandescent lamp, etc.

Ehrenburg, Liya Grigoryevich (1891-1967): Russian writer whose novel *The Thaw* gave the name to post-Stalin relaxation.

Ehrlich, Paul (1854-1915): German scientist, one of the pioneers of bacteriology.

Eiffel, Alexandro Gustave (1832-1923): French engineer, remembered for Eiffel Tower, Paris and Panama Canal locks

Einstein, Albert (1879-1955): Mathematical physicist whose theory of relativity superseded Newton's theory of gravitation. His work led on to the making of the nuclear bomb. Nobel Prize, 1921.

Einthoven, Willem (1860-1927): Dutch physiologist. Invented the electrocardiogram. Nobel Prize.

Eisenhower, Gen. Dwight (1890-1969): American general and statesman. He was C-in-C, Allied Forces, N. Africa 1942-3, and in the European theatre of operations, 1943-5; Republican President, 1953-61.

Eliot, George (1819-'80): Pen-name of English woman novelist Mary Anne (later Marion) Evans. *Middlemarch*.

Eliot, Thomas Stearns (1888-1965): English Poet and critic, born in U.S. *The Waste Land*, *Murder in the Cathedral*.

Nobel Prize.

Elizabeth II (b. 1926): Queen of Gt. Britain and N. Ireland; ascended the throne, 1952.



Elizabeth II

Ellington, Edward Kennedy ('Duke') (1899-1974): American pianist, composer.

Ellis, Havelock (1859-1939): English psychologist and writer. Studies in the Psychology of Sex (7

vols; 1898-1928).

Ellsworth, Lincoln (1880-1951): American engineer, the first to fly over Antarctica (1935).

Emeneau, Prof. Murray Branson (1904-2005): Western indologist.

Empedocles (c. 490-430 B.C.): Greek philosopher who held that all matter was composed of four ingredients - fire, air, water and earth. Only 500 lines from two of his poems remain of his writing

Engels, Friedrich (1820-'95): German socialist, lifelong friend of Karl Marx, with whom he wrote the *Communist Manifesto*.

Erasmus, Desiderius (1466-1536): The greatest humanist and scholar of Dutch Renaissance. Praise of Folly.

Euripides (480-406 B.C.): The greatest of the Greek dramatists, who wrote about 80 plays. *Trojan Woman*, *Alceus*, *Medea*

Evert Chris (b. 1954): of 1974-75 of the all-time greats in tennis. Won 11 championships from 1974 to 1978.

157 tournament titles.

Fahrenheit, Gabriel Daniel (1686-

John Bull is the personification of England. The character of John Bull' by John Arbuthnot. Arbuthnot also coined 'pours' in 1726.

sculptor, a pioneer of the Renaissance style, born Donato di Niccola di Betto Bardi. Famous for the marble sculptures of St. Mark and St. George.

Donne, John (1572-1631): One of the great Metaphysical poets. He was chaplain to King James of England, and later Dean of St. Paul's..

Dostoevsky, Feodor Mikhailovich (1821-'81): Russian novelist. Sent to hard labour in Siberia for revolutionary activity. *Crime and Punishment, The Idiot, The Possessed.*

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan (1859-1930): British writer of detective stories. Creator of detective *Sherlock Holmes* and *Dr Watson.*

Drake, Sir Francis (c. 1540-'96): English seaman; in 1577-'80 he sailed round the world in the "Golden Hind".

Drucker, Peter F. (1909-2005): Management expert and author of international fame.

Dryden, John (1631-1700): Poet laureate and dramatist. *The Indian Emperor, Heroic Stonzos, All for Love.*

Du Pont, Elcuth-Ere Irene (1772-1834): American chemicals manufacturer, b. France.

Dulles, John Foster (1888-1959): US Secretary of State 1953-9, opposed negotiation with Russia.

Dumas, Alexandre (1802-'70): French romantic novelist. *The Three Musketeers.*

Dunant, Jean Henri (1828-1910): Swiss philanthropist. Promoted the establishment of the International Red Cross (1863). Shared the first Nobel Prize (1901).

Duncan, Isadora (1877-1927): American expressive dancer who united free movement with serious music; one of the

founders of modern dance.

Dunlop, John Boyd (1840-1921) Scottish veterinary surgeon. Patented (1888) Dunlop version of pneumatic tyre.

Dupleix, Joseph Francois (1697-1763): French Governor in India.

Durant, Will (1885-1981): American historian. *The Story of Civilisation, The Story of Philosophy.*

Dutt, Nargis (1929-'81): The greatest film actress of her time. Paired in several immortal films with Raj Kapoor. Married



Nargis Dutt

actor Sunil Dutt, who later became a Union Minister until death in 2005. Best actress award. Padmashri. Nominated to Rajya Sabha. Son Sanjay Dutt, a leading Hindi film actor.

Duvalier, Francois ('Papa Doc')

(1907-'71): Dictator of Haiti (1957-'71). Used personal police force (Tonton Macoutes).

Dylan, Bob (1941-): US singer and composer, born Robert Allen Zimmerman. *Blood on the Tracks.*

Eastman, George (1854-1932): American inventor; manufacturer of photographic equipment.

Eckermann, Johann Peter (1792-1854): German writer who was an assistant to Goethe. *Conversations with Goethe.*

Eckert, John Presper (1919-'95): Co-inventor of the computer. Developed world's first electronic digital computer with John W. Mauchly.

Eco, Umberto (b. 1932): Italian novelist.

Don't Spit, Remember the Flood

'Don't Spit, Remember the Johnstown flood' was the US admonition against spitting, citing the 1889 flood caused by a dam bursting.

Frank, Anne (1929-c. 1945): Jewish girl who fled Germany with family to escape Nazi persecution, and author of *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

Franklin, Benjamin (1706-'90): American statesman, and scientist. Invented the lightning conductor.

Frederick II (the Great) (1712-'86): King of Prussia for 46 years. Able ruler and great scholar.

Freud, Sigmund (1856-1939): Austrian psychiatrist and founder of psychoanalysis. *The Interpretation of Dreams*.

Frost, Robert (1874-1963): American poet well-known for his poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.

Fry, Elizabeth (1780-1845): English prison reformer, philanthropist.

Gaddafi, Muammar al (b. 1942): Libyan leader and military dictator; took power in a coup in 1969 and became President in 1977.

Gagarin, Yuri (1934-'68): Soviet cosmonaut, the first man to orbit the earth in spacecraft Vostok I in 1961.

Gainsborough, Thomas (1727-88): British portrait and landscape painter. *Viscount Kilmorey, Blue Boy, The Watering Place*.

Gaitonde, V.S. (b. 1924): India's celebrated abstract painter.

Galbraith, John Kenneth (1908-2006): American economist, diplomat and writer. Ambassador to India, 1961-3. *The Affluent Society*.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642): Italian scientist and astronomer who laid the foundations of modern science. The first man to see the satellites of Jupiter.

Gallup, George Horrace (1901-'84): Renowned American statistician who stud-

ied public opinion through questions put to a representative group - 'Gallup poll'.

Galsworthy, John (1867-1933): English novelist and dramatist. The Forsythe Saga. Nobel prize, 1932.



Vasco da Gama

Gama, Vasco da (1460-1524): Portuguese navigator, discoverer of the sea route from western Europe to India.

Gamow, George (1904-68): Russian-born US nuclear physicist. With Ralph Alpher and Hans Bethe, he developed the Big Bang theory.

Gamow-Teller theory of beta decay is known after him and Edward Teller.

Gandhi, Indira (1917-'84): Daughter of Nehru. India's first woman prime minister (1966-'77, 1980-'84). Assassinated. Her son, Rajiv Gandhi was PM, '84-'89. Bharat Ratna, 1971.

Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) (1869-1948): Father of the Indian nation, and one of the greatest personalities of the 20th century. From 1893 to 1914 he lived in South Africa opposing discrimination against Indians. In 1915, returned to India, dominated the Congress party. Without weapons or armies, he led India to independence. Lived an austere life, devoted to truth, non-violence and worked for Hindu-Muslim unity. Assassinated. *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

Gandhi, Rajiv (1944-'91): Grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru; a commercial turned politician; Indian Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989. Assassinated.

The First Asian Woman Bishop

In 1996, A. Katashamma became the first woman bishop Paul Raj in Bhadrachalam, Andhra Pradesh. In 1989, A. Katashamma was ordained a priest by the Church of South India.

1736): German physicist who introduced the mercury thermometer and fixed thermometric standards.

Falk, Lee (1912-'99): Creator of the popular cartoon characters *Mandrake the Magician* and the *Phantom*.

Fallopio, Gabriele (1523-'62): Italian anatomist, discovered Fallopian tubes, leading from ovaries to the uterus, in which fertilisation takes place.

Faraday, Michael (1791-1867): English physicist who founded the science of electro-magnetism.

Farah, Nuruddin (b. 1945): Somali novelist, and a major writer of Africa.

Faulkner, William (1897-1962): American novelist, whose series of novels (*The Sound and the Fury*, etc.) depict the American South. Nobel prize, 1949.

Fawkes, Guy (1570-1606): English conspirator. Served with Spanish armies in Netherlands. Involved in Gunpowder Plot (Nov.5, 1605) to blow up Houses of Parl. Executed.

Fazal, Abul (1561-1602): Prime Minister of Akbar the Great. Scholar, Wrote *Ain-i-Akbari* and *Akbarnama*.

Federer, Roger (b.1982): Switzerland, Tennis champion at 24. Won fourth successive Wimbledon in 2006. 12 Grand Slam single titles, 55 career titles.

Fellini, Federico (1920-'93): Great Italian film maker. Five-time Academy Award winner. *Lo Strodo* (1954), *Lo Dolce Vito* (1959), *8 1/2* (1963).

Fermi, Enrico (1901-'54): Pioneering scientist who discovered over 400 radio isotopes. Element number 100 is named Fermium after him.

Flelding, Henry (1707-'54): English author known for *Tom Jones* (1749).

Fischer, Bobby (b. 1943): World Chess Champion, 1972-75.



Bobby Fischer

Fitzgerald, Edward (1809-'83): English poet and translator. Translated *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* (1859).

Flaubert, Gustave (1821-80): French novelist, leading exponent of French realism. *Madame Bovary*.

Fleming, Sir Alexander (1881-1955): British bacteriologist and discoverer of penicillin (1928). Nobel Prize (1945).

Flinders, Mathew (1774-1814): English explorer who charted large parts of the land he named Australia. Flinders River, Flinders Island named after him.

Fonda, Henry (1905-'82): US actor who became a Hollywood star. Won Academy Award in '82 for *On Golden Pond*. Daughter Jane and son Peter joined films.

Ford, Gerald R (b. 1913): American Republican President, 1974-77.

Ford, Henry (1863-1947): Pioneer (American) motor car manufacturer and industrialist. Founder of Ford Motor Company and Ford Foundation.

Forster, Edward Morgan (1879-1970): Novelist, shortstory writer and essayist. Author of *A Passage to India*.

Forsyth, Fredrick (b. 1939): British journalist and author of best-sellers like *Dog of the Jackal*, *The Odessa File* and *The Dogs of War*.

Francis of Assisi, St. (1181/2-1226): Founder of the Franciscan Order.

Oprah's Fifth Victory

For the fifth time, talk-show host Oprah Winfrey with yearly earnings of \$275 m. is No.1 on the 'Forbes' list of 100 most powerful celebrities. Tiger Woods, Angelina Jolie, Beyonce Knowles and David Beckham are next in the list.

atna, 1991.

Gandhi, Sonla (b. 1946): Italian by birth, naturalised in India. Wife of former Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi, widowed on his assassination. Meteoric rise from primary membership to presidency of Congress party in just two years. Elected to Lok Sabha in 1999, 2004 and 2006. The party's surprise victory in 2004 made her leader of Congress - led United Progressive Alliance, but Ms Gandhi declined to become PM.

Ganesan, Sivaji (1927-2001): Legendary actor; over 100 Tamil films in five decades. Dada Saheb Phalke Award, 1996.

Garbo, Greta (1905-'90): Swedish film actress of poetical quality. *Ninotchka*.

Gargi, Balwant (1916-2003): Punjabi writer who wrote popular plays. Sahitya Akademi Award for *Rang Manch*; *Vangi Dhup* was autobiographical.

Garibaldi, Giuseppe (1807-'82): Italian general and patriot, who, with Mazzini and Cavour, created a united Italy.

Gates, Bill (b. 1956): World's richest private individual until 2007. Co-founder of Microsoft Corp.; he revolutionised the computer industry. Philanthropist who has made record donations. In 2006 announced decision to focus on charity work.

Gauguin, (Eugene Henri) Paul (1848-1903): French painter. Sought the



Sivaji Ganesan

simplicity of primitive life in Tahiti. *The Yellow Christ*.

Gaulle, Charles de (1890-1970): French general and statesman; first president of the Fifth Republic, 1958-69.

Gautama, Siddhartha (Buddha, The Enlightened) (c. 563-c. 483 B.C.): Founder of Buddhism. The Indian prince who renounced luxury and became an ascetic.

Gavaskar, Sunil (b. 1949): Indian cricketer who scored 1000 runs in Tests in a calendar year thrice; scored 34 centuries in Tests (world record).

Geisel, Theodor Seuss (pen name: Dr. Seuss) (1904-'91): Writer of nearly 50 books of rhymes and doodles, including *The Cat in the Hat*.

Genghis Khan (1162-1227): Mongol conqueror who overran the greater part of Asia and founded the Mongol world empire.

George, Boy (real name: George O'Dowd) (b.1962): The gender bender pop idol of the 1980s.

Getty, Jean Paul (1892-1976): American. Founded oil empire.

Ghali, Boutros-Boutros (b. 1922): Egyptian politician. The first African UN Secretary General 1992-'96.

Ghalib, Mirza Asadullah Khan (1796-1868): Renowned Urdu poet. *Diwon-e-Ghalib*.

Ghosh, Tushar Kant (1899-1994): Prominent Indian journalist, one of world's longest-serving editors.

Ghoshal, Sumantra (1949-2004): Management guru who was professor at London. Business School. Founder

The Most Famous Four Words

'Because it is there'. George Mallory, the mountaineer, is believed to have replied to the question "Why do you want to climb Mount Everest?" This has been described as 'the most famous four words' in mountaineering. However, some people have questioned the words attributed to Mallory. Did he really say so? It's anybody's guess.

biochemist and geneticist. He emigrated to India in 1957.

Hammar skjold, Dag (1905-'61): Swedish diplomat. Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1953-61. Killed in an air crash. Nobel Peace Prize, 1961.

Hannibal (247-182 B.C.): Carthaginian general who fought two wars against Rome. Regarded as the greatest general of antiquity.

Hardy, Thomas (1840-1928): English novelist and poet, sometimes called the 'last of the Victorians'. *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

Harris, Joel Chandler (1848-1908): American author of the *Uncle Remus* stories.

Harris, Paul (1868-1947): American who founded Rotary International in 1905.

Harvey, William (1578-1657): English physician who discovered the mechanics of the circulation of blood, 1616.

Hauptmann, Gerhart (1862-1946): German writer whose play *Vor Sonnenaufgang* marked the birth of German naturalist drama. Nobel Prize 1912.

Havel, Vaclav (b.1936): Dramatist who became President of Czechoslovakia (1989) and President of the Czech Republic. *The Garden Party*.

Hawking, Stephen (b. 1942): British astrophysicist, widely regarded as the greatest physicist since Einstein. Victim of a degenerative nerve disease. He can



communicate only through a computer, attached to his motorized wheelchair. A *Brief History of Time, Black Holes and Baby Universes*.

Hayek, Friedrich August Von (1899-1998): British economist. Taught at London, Chicago and Freiburg - Nobel Prize for Economics, 1974.

Hayek, Salma (b. 1966): Mexican big-screen siren. Oscar-nominated. Ranked by *Fortune* magazine as the second-richest Latin American in Hollywood.

Hazarika, Dr. Bhupendra Kumar (b. 1926): Renowned film-maker and composer of lyrics and music. Phalke Award, '93.

Hearst, William Randolph (1863-1951): A dominant figure in American journalism; built vast publishing empire.

Heath, Edward (b. 1916): British Prime Minister, 1970-74.

Hedgewar, Keshavrao Baliram (1889-1940): Founder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich (1770-1831): German idealist philosopher: the dialectic method of reasoning. *The Science of Logic*.

Hemingway, Ernest (1898-1961): Eminent American novelist of new technique and wide influence. *The Sun Also Rises, The Old Man and the Sea*. Nobel Prize, 1954.

Hendry, Stephen (b. 1970): The greatest snooker player of all time. World Champion six times.

Henry, O. (real name William Sydney Porter) (1862-1910): Master storyteller. *The Gift of the Magi*.

Hensen, Victor (1835-1924):

Hemachandra, that was Somachandra

Somachandra whose original name was Chandradev was a Jain teacher of the Digambara sect who gained privileges for his sect from King Siddharaja Jayasimha. On becoming an acharya (teacher), Somachandra changed to Hemachandra.

times. Scored over 54,000 runs including 126 centuries. Over 2800 wickets.

Graf, Steffi (b. 1969): German tennis legend. The third woman in tennis history to win all four major world tournaments - the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open - in a single calendar year (1988). She also won the Olympic gold medal that year. Won 22 Grand Slam titles and 107 WTA titles. Retired Aug. 99. Wife of Andre Agassi.

Graham, Billy (b. 1918): Most celebrated U.S. evangelist of the 1960's and 1970's.

Graham, Katharine (1917-2001): Influential American newspaper proprietor, who as publisher of *The Washington Post* presided over the decision to go public with the Pentagon papers and Watergate. Pulitzer for her memoirs *Personal History*.

Graham, Martha (b.1893-1991): American dancer, teacher and choreographer of more than 140 works.

Greene, Graham (1904-'91): English novelist and journalist. *The Power and the Glory*.

Grant, Cary (1904-86): American film star born in Britain as Archibald Leach. *Girl Friday*, *North by Northwest*.

Grass, Gunter Wilhelm (b. 1927): German novelist, poet and playwright. *The Tin Drum*, *Dog Years*, *The Coll of the Tood*. Nobel Prize. Revealed in Aug. '06 that he had served in Nazi elite force Waffen-SS.

Green, Maurice (b.1974): First sprinter ever to win both 100 and 200m. at world championships.

Gregory XIII (1502-'85): Pope (1572-

'85) who introduced the Gregorian calendar.

Guevara, Ernesto 'Che' (1928-'67)

Latin American revolutionary who took part in the Cuban guerrilla war and became a minister in Cuba 1959-65.



Che Guevara

Gujral, Inder Kumar (b. 1919) Prime Minister of India from Apr. 21 1997 to Nov. 97 and caretaker PM until Mar. 98. Formerly

in Union Cabinet from '67 to '76 and '89-'90, Minister of External Affairs and Ambassador to USSR.

Gundert, Dr. Herman (1814-'93): A linguist of Germany who lived in India where he learnt 18 local languages and compiled a Malayalam dictionary.

Gupta, Maithili Saran (1886-1964) A national poet of India, and one of the makers of modern Hindi literature. *Bharat Bharati*. Padma Vibhushan.

Gutenberg, Johann (1400-'68): German inventor who invented printing with movable types cast in moulds.

Haffkine, Waldemar (1860-1930) First Director of Plague Research Laboratory, Bombay later renamed The Haffkine Institute.

Hahn, Otto (1879-1968): German chemist, chief discoverer of nuclear fission, on which the atom bomb is based. Nobel prize, 1944.

Haile Selassie I (1891-1975): Emperor of Ethiopia, 1930-74. Deposed in 1974.

Haldane, J.B.S. (1892-1964): British

Pulitzer Prizes

Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the 'New York World' established the prizes known by his name. They are given annually for Journalism, Letters and Music. Prizes are \$10,000 in each category, except Public Service (in Journalism), for which a medal is given.

Hughes, Howard (1905-'76): US industrialist, financier, movie maker.

Hugo, Victor (1802-'85): French poet, dramatist, and novelist. *Lucrece*, *Les Miserables*.

Hume, Allan Octavian (1829-1912): Born in London, worked in India. Founded Indian National Congress in 1885.

Hume, David (1711-'76): Scottish philosopher and historian.

Hussain, Dr. Zakir (1897-1969): Second Vice-President and third President of India ('67-'69). Nationalist, educationist. Bharat Ratna.

Hussain, Maqbool Fida (b. 1915): Leading Indian artist. Member, Rajya Sabha, '86. Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan.

Huxley, Aldous (1894-1963): English novelist. Grandson of T. H. Huxley (1825-95, biologist-educator, ardent evolutionist), brother of Julian Huxley (1887-1975, biologist and writer, first D-G of UNESCO), and grandnephew of Mathew Arnold. *Brave New World*.

Huygens, Christiaan (1629-'95): Dutch mathematician. Invented pendulum clock.

Iacocca, Lee (b. 1924): American management wizard of Italian origin. Headed Ford Motor Company, and later Chrysler Corporation.

Ibsen, Henrik Johan (1828-1906): Norwegian playwright and poet. 'the father of modern drama'. *Ghosts*, *A Doll's House*.

Ilaiyaraaja (b. 1943): Superstar of Indian film music. Music director of nearly 700 films.

Inonu, Ismet (1884-1973): Turkish leader, president ('38-'50), PM thrice

between 1923 and '65.

Iqbal, Muhammad (1877-1938): The greatest 20th century Indian poet to write in Urdu. *The Secrets of the Self*, *The Song of Eternity*. Author of the famous line 'Sare jahan se acha yeh hindustan hamara'.

Isinbayeva, Yelena (b. 1982): The undisputed queen of women's pole vault, the first female, from Russia, to cover five metres. Olympic Gold, 2004, 2008.



Yelena Isinbayeva

Ivan the Terrible (1530-'84): Crowned as the first Tsar of Russia in 1547; an autocratic ruler.

Iyer, Semmangudi Srinivasa (1907-2003): Great musician (Carnatic) of India. Padma Vibhushan.

Jackson, Michael Joe (b. 1958): Popular black American singer and entertainer who grew into a legend. *Thriller* (global sales: 47 m), *Dangerous*, *History*.

Jackson, Rev. Jesse (b. 1941): American civil rights leader.

Jagger, Mick (b. 1944): Lead singer of The Rolling Stones, rock group. British.

Jalloun, Taher Ben (b. 1945): Morocco's best known writer. Writes in French.

Jatti, Basappa Danappa. (1912-2002): Vice President of India, 1974-'79. Formerly Chief Minister of Mysore and Governor of Orissa.

Jayadeva (12th c.): Famous Sanskrit poet. *Gita Govinda*.

Jayalalithaa, Jayaram (b. 1924): Indian film actress-turned-politician.

A Day for Dhyan Chand

August 29 was declared National Sports Day for the first time in birthday of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand.

German physiologist who first used the name plankton to describe the organisms that live suspended in the sea.

Plato (428-348 BC): Greek philosopher. His sayings: 'All things change'; 'You cannot step into the same water twice'.

Herge (Georges Remi) (1907-83): World famous author of Tintin cartoon series.

Herodotus (c. 485-425 B.C.): Greek historian, 'the father of history'.

Heyerdahl, Thor (1914- 2002): Norwegian scientist and adventurer, best known for his voyage aboard the Kon-Tiki raft.

Hidayatullah, Mohammed (1905-'92): Jurist who was Chief Justice and later Vice-President of India, 1979-84.

Hill, Sir Rowland (1795-1879): Originator of the penny postal system.

Hilliary, Edmund (b. 1919): New Zealand explorer, the first to climb Mount Everest in 1953.

Hipparchus (2nd cent.BC): Greek astronomer. Founder of systematic astronomy.

Hippocrates of Cos (c. 430 B.C.): Greek physician, called the Father of Medicine.

Hirohito (1901-89): 124th Emperor of Japan, (1926). Renounced his legendary divinity in 1946.

Hitchcock, Alfred (1899-1980): British-American film director, 'the master of suspense'. *Vertigo, Psycho, The Birds.*



Alfred Hitchcock

Hitler, Adolf (1889-1945): Austrian-born German dictator. Reich Chancellor in 1933 and Fuhrer in 1934; All his opponents were persecuted and murdered.

Hiuen-Tsang (7th c.): Buddhist pilgrim from China who visited India, 629 to 644 A.D.

Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969): Vietnamese revolutionary leader and the first President of North Vietnam (1954-69).

Hobbes, Thomas (1588-1679): English philosopher who wrote *Leviathan*.

Hodgkin, Dorothy (1910-94): Nobel Prize winner (Chemistry) who founded Pugwash Conference on nuclear weapons. Determined the structure of penicillin, insulin and Vitamin B12.

Hofmann, Albert (b.1906): Swiss chemist who discovered the now-banned hallucinogenic drug LSD.

Holbein, Hans (1465-1524): German painter. Called 'the Elder'. His son portrait painter Hans Holbein (1497-1543) is called 'the younger'.

Hollows, Fred (1929-93): Australian doctor whose work improved the eyesight of millions of people.

Homer (c. 700 B.C.): Epic poet. He is supposed to have been a Greek. *The Iliad, The Odyssey.*

Honeker, Erich (1913-'94): The stolid Marxist who ruled East Germany for 18 yrs. until people's uprising swept him aside in Oct. 89.

Hope, Bob (orig. Leslie Townes Hope) (1903-2003): Great American entertainer. Has 54 honorary doctorates.

Houdini, Harry (1874-1926): Pseudonym of Erich Weiss. American escapist.

Guru Gobind Singh

Guru Gobind Singh, whose original name was Gobind Rai, was the tenth and last Sikh Guru. He was a man of great intellectual achievement, and the founder of the Khalsa, the military brotherhood of the sikhs.

banian writer. Essays, poems and works of fiction. Translated into more than 40 languages.

Kafka, Franz (1883-1924): Czech-born German novelist. *The Trial*, *The Castle*.

Kalam, Dr. Abdul Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (b.1931):

President of India from 2002 to 2007. Former Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister. The man behind India's missile programme. Known for his dedication to science, commitment to professional excellence and simplicity of lifestyle. Bharat Ratna, 1998.



APJ Abdul Kalam

Kalashnikov, Mikhael (b. 1919): Russian; creator of the famous Kalashnikov rifle (1946).

Kalidasa (c. A.D. 400): India's greatest poet, dramatist and chief figure in classic Sanskrit literature, known as Indian Shakespeare: *Abhigyan Shakuntalam*, *Kumarasam-bhava*, *Meghadoot*, *Raghuvamsha* etc.

Kamalahasan (b. 1954): India's top film actor who won three national awards and 15 Filmfare awards in 37 years. *Appu Raja*, *Sadma*.

Kamaraj, Kumaraswami (1903-'75): Leader of the Indian national movement; President, Indian National Congress 1963; earlier Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu (1954-'63). Bharat Ratna.

Kane, Pandurang Vaman (1880-1972): Indian indologist, orientalist,

social reformer. History of Dharmasastra. Bharat Ratna, 1963.

Kanishka (1st or 2nd century C.E.): The greatest ruler of the Kushan dynasty, with his capital at Purushapura or Peshwar. Patronised Buddhism.

Kant, Immanuel (1724-1804): German philosopher. Critique of Pure Reason.

Kao, Rameshwar Nath (1918-2002): Founder of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligent agency, and its chief 1969-77.

Kapil Dev (Nikhani, Kapil Dev) (b. 1959): Indian cricket all-rounder, former captain and national team coach. World record of claiming 100 wickets in the shortest time. Achieved the unique double of 4000 runs and 400 wickets, the first ever player to do so. Set world record of 432 wickets in test matches in Feb.1994.

Kapoor, Raj (1924-'88): Indian film actor, director, producer; one of the greatest entertainers the country has produced. *Barsaat*, *Awara*, *Shri 420*, *Sangam*.

Kapoor, Shekhar (b. 1946): Indian film director. *Bandit Queen*, *Elizabeth*.

Karanth, Shivarama (1902-1997): A literary giant; novels, plays, travelogues, essays, general science encyclopedia. *Chomana Dudi*.

Karat, Prakash (b. 1948): General Secretary of CPI (M) elected 2005. Wife Brinda Karat, first woman Politburo member.

Karnad, Girish Raghunath (b.1938): Noted Indian playwright, actor and director. Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi,

The Discovery of Hydrogen

The Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University is named after Henry Cavendish (1731-1810), the British physicist who discovered hydrogen. He showed that water is a compound and he was the first to measure accurately the universal constant.

ADMK chief and Tamil Nadu CM (91-'96, 2002-'06).

Jefferson, Thomas (1743-1826): Third American president (1801-9), author of *The Declaration of Independence*.

Jenner, Edward (1749-1823): English country practitioner who invented vaccination.

Innabi, Mohammed Ali (1876-1948): Pakistani statesman, who became president of the Muslim League. First Governor-General of Dominion of Pakistan, 1947.

Joan of Arc, St. (Jeanne D'Arc) (1412-'31): French patriot and national heroine called the Maid of Orleans; of peasant parentage, she believed herself called to save France from English domination. Captured by the English, she was burned as a heretic, but canonised in 1920.

John Paul II (1920-2005): The first non-Italian Pope in 455 years and the first Polish Pope (1978). Formerly Cardinal Karol Wojtyla.

Jonson, Ben (c. 1573-1637): English dramatist and poet who ranks with Shakespeare. *The Alchemist*.

Johnson, Dr. Samuel (1709-'84): English lexicographer, critic and literary figure. Dictionary was published in 1755. *Rasselas*.

Johnson, Lyndon Baines (1908-'73): President of the United States, 1963-'69.

Johnson, Michael (b.1967): The first man to complete the 200-400 m. double at a major international championship.

Joliot-Curie, Jean Frederic (1900-'58) and his wife Irene (1896-1956):

French scientists who discovered artificial radioactivity. Nobel prize winners, 1935.

Jones, Sir William (1746-'94): British indologist. Mastered 28 languages.

Jones, Wilson (b. 1922): Twelve-time national amateur billiards champion of India; winner of three world titles.

Jordan, Michael (b. 1963): US basketball player. He played for the Chicago Bulls (1984-93, 1995 -). He announced his retirement in 1999.

Jooss, Kurt (1901-79): Dancer and choreographer of Germany, whose dance dramas combined modern dance with ballet techniques.

Joshi, Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj (b. 1922): Internationally acclaimed



Bhimsen Joshi

Hindustani vocalist, who has led the renaissance of Indian classical music.

Joule, James Prescott (1818-'89): British physicist. Gave his name to the unit measuring energy.

Jung, Carl Gustav (1875-1961): Swiss psychologist, one of the founders of analytical psychology. Worked with Freud.

Juran, Dr. Joseph (1905-2008): American industrial engineer, thinker in quality management.

Jussieu, Bernard de (1699-c.1777): French botanist who devised the system of plant classification based on natural affinities.

Kadare, Ismail (b.1934): Exiled Al-

A President's Daughter Writes Mysteries

Margaret Truman, who authored the best-selling "Murder in the White House", the first of a series of mysteries set in the FBI, Supreme Court, etc. was the only child of US President Harry Truman.

Khan, Khan Abdui Gaffar (1890-1988): The 'Frontier Gandhi' worked among the Pathans of North West Frontier Province. Built the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement; opposed partition of India. Bharat Ratna, 1987.

Khan, Liaquat Ali (1895-1951): Leader of the Muslim League (1946) and first premier of Pakistan (1947). Assassinated.

Khan, Mohammed Ayub (1907-'74): Military leader; President of Pakistan, 1958-69.

Khan, Ustad Aliauddin (1862-1972) of Maihar: One of the all-time greats of the century in the Hindustani music tradition.

Khorana, Har Gobind (b. 1922): Born in India, a naturalized citizen of USA. Synthesized the first wholly artificial gene. Shared Nobel prize, 1968.

Khosla, Vinod (b. 1955): Co-founder of Sun Microsystems. One of world's most influential venture capitalists. General

Partner at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeyevich (1894-1971): The Russian statesman who became the leader of the Soviet Union soon after the death of Stalin. First Secretary 1953-64; PM, 1958-64.

Khusro, A.M. (1925-2003): Indian agricultural economist who was Chairman of the 11th Finance Commission.

Khusro, Amir (1253-1325): The Persian poet of Delhi who is believed to



Har Gobind Khorana

be the father of Sahatara (Sitar). Saw 11 Badshahs and served under 7 sultans.

Kierkegaard, Soren Aabye (1813-'55): Danish philosopher, regarded as the founder of existentialism.

Kilby, Jack S (1924-2005): Inventor of the integrated circuit (commonly called the microchip) that gave rise to the information age. Nobel Prize in Physics.

Kim Woo Choong (b. 1936): The South Korean tycoon who built the Daewoo Group into a global empire (\$ 67 billion in annual sales). It crashed and he fled the country, accused of fraud and smuggling, to return home in 2005.

King, Billie Jean (b. 1943): American tennis player. Wimbledon champion 5 times between 1966 and 1973; US champion 4 times. 20 titles between 1961 and 1979.

King, Larry (b. 1933): American TV host.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. (1929-'68): Black American clergyman, a non-violent civil rights leader and Negro integration leader; Nobel Peace Prize. Assassinated. *Why We Can't Wait*.

Kingsley, Ben (b. 1944): London-based actor who played the role of Gandhi in Attenborough's film, *Gandhi*. Oscar

Kipling, Rudyard (1865-1936): British writer born in Bombay. *Kim*, *Jungle Books*. Nobel prize.

Kissinger, Henry (b. 1923): American foreign policy expert, Secretary of State (1973-6). Known for his 'shuttle diplomacy'. Shared Nobel peace prize (1973).

Kitchener General Lord Horation Hubert (1850-1916): C-in-C of Indian Army, 1902-07.

Razzie

The 'Golden Raspberry' Award is affectionately called 'Razzie'. It is the award for Hollywood's worst movie performances.

(1988-93). Director, Nehru Centre, London. Gyanpith.

Karpov, Anatoly (b. 1951): Soviet chess champion, 1975-85; the highest-rated player in chess history.



Anatoly Karpov

Karthikeyan, Narain (b. 1977):

First Indian to drive a Formula One car.

Formula Asia Champion, 1996.

Karve, Dhondo Keshav (1858-1962): Indian social worker who championed the causes of widow marriage and women's education. Bharat Ratna.

Kasavubu, Joseph (1917-69): First President of Independent Congo, ousted by Joseph Mobutu in 1965.

Kasparov, Garry (b. 1963): Russian chess grandmaster. Highest-rated player in chess history, the youngest-ever world champion in 1985.

Kaunda, Kenneth (b. 1924): Architect of the independence of Zambia and its first president (1964-'91). Freed in June '98 after five months under house arrest on coup plot charges.

Kawabata Yasunari (1899-1972): Japanese novelist, one of the Neo-Impressionists. Works (*Snow Country*, *The Sound of the Mountain*) are characterized by melancholy and loneliness. Committed suicide. Nobel Prize, 1968.

Kazan, Elia (1909-2003): US film director, born in Turkey. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *On the Waterfront*.

Keats, John (1795-1821): Youngest of the major poets of the romantic period in English literature. *Odes*, *Isabella*.

Kelappan, Kizharyoor (1890-1971): Sarvodaya leader and social reformer Kerala.

Keller, Helen (1880-1968): American author and educator of the blind. Deaf and blind when 19 months old. Inspiration to millions of blind and deaf people all over the world. *The Story of My Life*.

Kelly, Grace (1929-'82): American film actress who married Monaco's Prince Rainier III and left acting.

Keneally, Thomas Michael (b. 1935): Australian writer. His novel *Schindler's Ark* won 1982 Booker Prize. It was made into a prize winning film by Steven Spielberg - *Schindler's List*.

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald (1917-'63): 35th U.S. President (1961-3). Youngest to be elected. A man of vision and courage. Assassinated. Profiles in Courage.

Kenyatta, Jomo (1894-1978): A tall African leader who was the first President of independent Kenya.

Kepler, Johannes (1571-1630): German astronomer and mystic.

Kevoorkian, Dr. Jack (b.1928): Pathologist, known as Dr. Death for assisting in suicide of terminally ill patients in pain. Prosecuted.

Keynes, John Maynard (1883-1946): The most influential British economist of early 20th century. *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*.

Khalji, Alauddin (1255-1316): Delhi ruler who came to power by murdering his aged father-in-law. Able and ruthless, gained vast treasure by conquests.

Khan, Bismillah (1916-2006): Shahnai maestro from Varanasi, India. Bharat Ratna, 2001.

"The Lost World", In-Flight

On April 6, 1925, the passengers on a scheduled Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent saw a motion picture. They were the first air travellers to experience that kind of in-flight entertainment. The film was Conan Doyle's 'The Lost World'.

Laden, Osama bin (b. 1957): Saudi Arabian millionaire - 'most wanted' in several terrorist attacks. Prime suspect in the destruction of WTC, New York.

Lahiri, Jhumpa (b.1967): Writer of Indian origin. Won Pulitzer Prize (2000) for *'The Interpreter of Maladies: Stories of Bengal, Boston and Beyond'*.

Lakshmibai, Rani of Jhansi (1835-'58): Queen of Jhansi, a brave warrior who took active part in the first war of Indian independence.

Lao Tsz (c. 600 B.C.): Chinese philosopher who founded Taosim.

Laski, Harold Joseph (1893-1950): British political scientist, influential Fabian. Taught at London School of Economics.

Laxman, Rasipuram Krishnaswami (b.1927): Outstanding Indian cartoonist. Magsaysay award, 1984. Brother to writer R.K. Narayan.

Lay, Kenneth (1942-2006): Founder, chairman and CEO of Enron, the giant energy company which collapsed. He was convicted of fraud and conspiracy, died while awaiting sentencing.

Le Carre, John (pen-name of David John Moore Cornwell (b. 1931): English writer of thrillers, who had been a diplomat. *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*.

Le Corbusier (1887-1965): Pseudonym of architect Charles Edouard Jeanneret. Born in Switzerland, became a French citizen in 1930. Architect of Chandigarh (India).

Leakey, Louis Seymour Bazett (1903-'72): Kenyan-born British archaeologist and anthropologist, and Mary Douglas Leakey (b. 1913), English archaeologist. Made several important discoveries about

men's origins in East Africa. Son Richard Leakey (b. 1944).

Lebrun, Albert (1871-1950): A mining engineer who became the last President of France's Third Republic.

Lee, Harper (b.1926): Pulitzer Prize winning author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Enigmatic, reclusive never published another book.

Leigh, Vivien (1913-'67): British actress who won Oscar in 1940 for *Gone With The Wind* portraying Scarlett O'Hara.

Lendl, Ivan (b. 1960): Tennis player, born in Czechoslovakia. Former world No.1.

Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov) (1870-1924): Russian revolutionary leader and statesman who liberated the country from the Tsars (1917). Then headed the Soviet government until his death.



Lenin

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519): A great genius, one of the master artists of the high Renaissance. Italian. Man of science who was painter, architect, philosopher, poet, composer, sculptor, athlete, mathematician, inventor, and anatomist. *Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*.

Lesseps, Ferdinand (1805-'94): French engineer who built the Suez Canal in 1869.

Lewis, Carl (b. 1961): American winner of 8 Olympic gold medals and former 100 m. world record holder. In 1992 he won four Olympic gold medals.

The Tortoise that Killed

The Greek dramatist Aeschylus was killed when, according to a p dropped a tortoise on his bald head, mistaking it for a stone.

Kitchiew, Saifuddin (1888-1963): Associate of Mahatma Gandhi, founder President of the All India Peace Council. Stalin Peace Prize.

Koch, Robert (1843-1910): German physician and bacteriologist who discovered the bacillus of tuberculosis. Nobel Prize, 1905.

Kohi, Helmut (b. 1930): First Chancellor of united Germany in 1990. Chancellor of West Germany from 1982-'90. Influenced European affairs for two decades.

Kosygin, Alexei Niklayevich (1904-80): Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR (PM) after Khrushchev ('64).

Kotnis, Dr. Dwarkanath (1910-'42): The legendary Indian doctor who became the hero of the Indian medical mission to war-torn China in 1938.

Kramnik Vladimir (b.1975): Of Russia. World Chess Champion.

Kripalani, Acharya, J.B. (1882-1982): Freedom fighter, parliamentarian, close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, President of INC 1946. Started Kisan Mazdoor Party and Praja Socialist Party. Wife SUCHETA (1908-'74): freedom fighter and first woman Chief Minister of independent India (U.P.), 1963-'67.

Krishan Kant (1927-2002): Vice-President of India (1997-2002). Gandhian and freedom fighter. Rajya Sabha, '66-'77. Lok Sabha, '77. Governor, A.P. for 7 years.

Krishnamurthy, Jiddu (1895-1986): Indian philosopher of international reputation. At 20, he headed a new sect 'The Order of the Star of the East'. *The Songs of Life*.

Krishnamurthy, Kalki (1899-1954): Tamil novelist, short story writer and music critic.

Kruger, Paul (1825-1904): South African statesman. Secured independence of Transvaal, of which he was president four times. Resisted spread of British influence.

Krupp, Alfred (1812-'87): German armaments magnate.

Kublai Khan (1216-'94): The first Mongol emperor of China. Extended Mongol empire by conquest and lived in unparalleled splendour.

Kumar, Ashok (1911-2002): India's longest serving film star. Debut in 1936. *Achhut Kanya, Kismet, Ashirwad*. Phalke Award.

Kumar, Dilip (b.1922): Top matinee idol of India. *Andaz, Devdas, Mughal E Azam, Deedar*. Phalke award.

Kundera, Milan (b. 1929): Czech novelist. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

Kurien, Dr. Verghese (b. 1921): 'Father of India's white revolution', a synonym for co-operative milk sector. The brain behind Operation Flood. Chairman, NDDB until 1998. World Food Prize ('89), Magsaysay award ('63), Padmavibhushan.



Akira Kurosawa

Kurosawa, Akira (1910-'98): Japan's greatest filmmaker, creator of such classics as *Rashomon* and *The Seven Samurai*.

La Fontaine, Jean De (1621-'95): French poet of the Fables and author of stories in verse.

The World's Youngest King

Bhutan's new king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, 29, is the world's youngest king. The king's father Jigme Singye Wangchuk spearheaded the change of Bhutan to a voluntary democracy. The King is an avid movie watcher.

viceroy's house, British Embassy in Washington and Roman Catholic cathedral of Liverpool.

Luxemburg, Rosa (1871-1919): Polish born German revolutionary and socialist theorist.

Lynch, Peter (b. 1944): America's leading money manager, financial consultant. *One Up on Wall Street, Beating The Street.*

Macadam, John Loudon (1756-1836): Scottish inventor of the 'macadamising' system of road repair.

MacArthur, Douglas (1880-1964): US general, army chief of staff. In WWII, he received Japan's surrender in Sept. 1945. Allied Commander of the postwar occupation of Japan. Active role in Korean war. Differences with President H. Truman ended his military career.

Macaulay, Thomas Babington (1800-'59): English historian, poet and Indian civil servant. Reformed the Indian education system. *History of England.*

Macbride, Sean (1904-88): Irish statesman, Chief of Staff of IRA, founder of Irish Republican Party, external affairs minister, first chairman of Amnesty International (1961-75). Nobel Peace Prize, 1974.

Machel, Samora (1933-86): Mozambique politician, first President, died in air crash. His widow Graca married Nelson Mandela.

Machiavelli, Niccolo (1469-1527): Italian writer and diplomat. Name associated (erroneously?) with immorality and despotism in politics. *The Prince.*

Madhavacharya (1238-1317): Exponent of Dwaita philosophy; wrote commentaries on Gita, interpreted

Upanishads in a new way.

Madonna (Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone) (b. 1958): World's number one female pop star with over 80 m. albums sold and more consecutive top hit singles than the Beatles; a self-made icon. Italian American.

Magellan, Ferdinand (c. 1480-1521): Portuguese navigator, and commander of the first expedition (1519) to circumnavigate the globe.

Mahalanobis, Prasanta Chandra (1893-1972): Economist and statistician, who contributed to laying the foundation of India's statistical system and economic planning.

Mahapatra, Kelucharan (1926-2004): Exponent of Odissi dance. Trained and produced two generations of world-class dancers.

Mahapatra, Sitakanta (b. 1937): Oriya poet. IAS officer, Gyanpith award.

Maharaj, Pandit Birju (b.1937): Eminent Kathak dancer. Padma Vibhushan in 1986.

Mahavira, Vardhmana (6th cent. B.C.): Indian. Founder of Jainism, which teaches the sacredness of all life.

Mahesh Yogi, Maharishi (1917-2008): Immensely rich Indian Yoga expert. Transcendental Meditation movement in 1959. Founded the Maharishi University of Management.

Mahmood, Talat (1924-1988): Celebrated ghazal and playback singer.



Birju Maharaj

The Little Cripple

The Brazilian sculptor Antonia Lisboa, who contracted an unknown disease that went on working after he had lost the use of his arms and hands. He was strapped to his arms. 'Little Cripple' (Aleazadinho) was his piece 'The Prophets' is 12 large stone figures in Brazil.

e, Trygve (1896-1968): Norwegian politician who became the first U.N. Sec.-gen. ('46-53).

ncoln, Abraham (1809-'65): Sixteenth president of USA (1861). Formed Republican party in 1856 to oppose slavery. Assassinated.

ppmann, Walter (1889-1974): American journalist of influence. His column was carried world-wide.

iszt, Franz (1811-'86): Hungarian-French composer. Debut at age 11. *Transcendental Etudes, Paganini Etudes, A Faust Symphony.*

ivingstone, David (1813-'73): Scottish missionary and explorer in Africa. He discovered the course of the Zambezi, the Victoria Falls and Lake Nyasa (now Lake Malawi).

loyd Webber, Andrew (b. 1948): British composer. Rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*. *Cats*, the longest running musical ever in London and New York.

loyd-George, David (1863-1945): British statesman and author of modern British social welfare legislation. PM 1916-'22.

ocke, John (1632-1704): English philosopher. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding.*

ohia, Dr. Ram Manohar (1910-'67): Indian socialist, Member of Parliament, writer.

London, Jack (1876-1916): American writer known for short stories and adventure tales. *Call of the Wild.*



Abraham Lincoln

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth (1807-'82): American poet. *The Golden Legend, Hiawatha.*

Lopez, Jennifer (b. 1970): American singer and actress of Puerto Rican parentage. Highest-paid Latina actress in Hollywood history. Her debut album *'On the 6'* was a major hit with the infectious single *"If you had my love"*.

Loren, Sophia (b.1934): Italian actress, two Oscars. *Two Women, Millionairess.*

Lorenz, Konrad (1903-1989): Zoologist from Austria, Co-founder of modern ethology. Authored *On Aggression*. Shared Noble Prize, 1973.

Lores, Bonney (1898-1994): Pioneering aviatrix (of Australia) who in 1933 became the first woman to make the solo trip from Australia to England, flying without a radio.

Loreton, Erhard (b. 1959): The Swiss mountaineer who is the third man to have climbed world's 14 highest peaks.

Louis XIV (1638-1715): King of France. Longest reign (72 years). A despotic ruler, dominated the Europe of his day. His exhausting wars weakened France.

Lovelock, James (b.1919): Creator of the field of Geophysics, responsible for much of our environmental consciousness.

Loyola, St. Ignatius of (1491-1556): Spanish founder of the Society of Jesuits, a missionary order.

Lumumba, Patrice (1925-'61): Congolese politician. Premier at Independence. Civil war resulted in his murder.

Luther, Martin (1483-1546): German religious reformer who began the Protestant Reformation.

Lutyens, Sir Edwin (1869-1944): English architect; City plan of New Delhi,

An Astronaut's Son in Space

Richard Garriott, a 47-year-old computer game designer, is the first child of a US astronaut to go into space as he takes a \$ 30 m. seat aboard the Soyuz capsule to the international space station.

first language daily to sell over 1.5 million copies. Mammen Mappillai's son K.M. Mathew (Padma Bhushan '98) is its present Chief Editor.

Maradona, Diego (b. 1961): Argentinian football star. Famous for the 'hand of God' goal against England in 1986. Banned for 15 months for drug problems.

Marceau, Marcel (b.1923): The Picasso of the mime. *Bip*, his celebrated mime creation.

Marconi, Guglielmo (1874-1937): Italian inventor who developed the use of radio waves as a means of communication. Nobel Prize.

Marggraf, Andreas Sigismund (1709-82): German chemist. His discovery of beet sugar led to the development of the sugar industry.

Marie Antoinette (1755-'93): Queen of France, wife of Louis XVI; accused of treason, beheaded in the French Revolution.

Marlowe, Christopher (1564-'93): English dramatist and precursor of Shakespeare. *Dr. Faustus, Tamburlaine*.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia (b.1928): Colombian writer and poet. Nobel Prize, 1982. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

Marshall, George Catlett (1880-1959): U.S. Secretary of State (1939-'45). Known for the Marshall Aid plan for European reconstruction. Nobel prize for peace (1953).



Gabriel Marquez

Marti, Jose (1853-95): Cuban leader of the independence struggle; poet.

Martin du Gard, Roger (1881-1958): French novelist known for his 8-novel series *Les Thibault* dealing with family life in early 20th century. Nobel Prize, 1937.

Martin, Ricky (b.1971): Latino pop singer, a member of Menudo, the Puerto Rican boy band.

Marx, Karl (1818-'83): Great German socialist thinker. With friend Engels, wrote the *Communist Manifesto* (1848). Founder of modern international communism. *Das Kapital*.

Masani, Minoo (1906-'98): Politician. Founded Swatantra Party.

Mashelkar, Dr. R.A (b. 1943): Former Director General of CSIR. Elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1998.

Mata Hari (1876-1917): (Margarethe Geertruida Zelle) Dutch spy. A dancer in Paris with many lovers, she became a German spy and was shot for treason.

Mathai, Dr. John (1886-1959): Economist, administrator and educationist. Union Finance Minister, V-C of Bombay and Kerala Universities. Padma Vibhushan.

Matternich, Klemens Wenzel Raymund Lothar (1773-1859): Austrian statesman. As Foreign Minister, helped form the Quadruple Alliance which defeated Napoleon.

Maupassant, Guy De (1850-93): French author, one of the masters of the short story. *La Parure* (The Necklace).

Mauresmo, Amelie (b.1973): French woman in 81 years - the oldest bledon singles title, beating Justine Henin-Hardenne in 2006.

How 'Harry Potter' was Written

J.K. Rowling's favourite cafe Nicolson's was where she wrote the story of Harry Potter. She was in financial straits. When her child fell asleep, she would head for the coffee shop to write. Nicolson's let her stay there often ordered only a glass of water and an espresso.

angeshkar award 1995.

akarios III (1913-'77): Archbishop, head of the Greek Orthodox church and prominent national leader. President of Cyprus, 1960.

alaviya, Madan Mohan (1861-1946): Indian patriot, national leader and social reformer. Founder of Hindu Mahasabha (1906) and Banaras Hindu University (1916).

alcom X (1925-'65): Born Malcolm X, also known as El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. US black militant leader who preached black people must create a separate society by violence, if necessary. Assassinated.

allnowski, Bronislaw (1884-1942): Poland. Father of social anthropology.

alleswari, Karnam (b. 1976): Indian weight-lifter. First Indian woman to win an Olympic medal (bronze, Sydney). Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

althus, Thomas Robert (1766-1834): British economist who contended that population increases faster than the means of subsistence and that its growth could only be checked by moral restraint or by disease and war.

Mandela, Nelson Rolihlala (b. 1918): First black President of South Africa (May '94). Imprisoned for about 27 years (1964-1990) for fighting apartheid. Under his leadership, South Africa became a non-racist democracy. Bharat Ratna, 1990. Nobel Prize, '93. *Long Walk to Freedom*.



Nelson Mandela

Manekshaw, Field Marshal S.H.F.J. (1914-2008): India's first Field Marshal. War hero who masterminded the victory over Pakistan in 1971. Padma Vibhushan.

Manessier, Alfred (1912-'93): One of France's greatest abstract artists; also a master of tapestry and stained glass.

Mangeshkar, Lata (b. 1929): Melody queen of India. Most prolific playback singer active for half a century. Phalke award, Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award, Bharat Ratna (2001).

Mani, Ehsan (b. 1945): Pakistani, the third President of ICC.

Manin, Daniele (1804-57): Italian patriot who was imprisoned for opposing Austrian rule of his town Venice. After the Revolution (1848) he became President of the new Venetian Republic.

Manohar, Sujata Vasant (b. 1934): India's second woman judge of Supreme Court. (The first-Fathima Beevi).

Mansingh, Sonal (b. 1944): Started Centre for Indian Classical Dances (1977). First woman to learn Chhau dance.

Mao Zedong (1893-1976): Architect of the Chinese Revolution and founder of the People's Republic of China. Experiments include 'Communes', the 'Great Leap Forward' and the 'Cultural Revolution' (65-69). Writings have influenced revolutionary thinking.

Mappillai, K. C. Mammen (1873-1953): Eminent journalist, social worker and community leader of India (Kerala). He was influenced and inspired by his uncle Kandathil Varghese Mappillai, a renowned litterateur, who in 1888 founded *Malayala Manorama*, India's

A Plane Called Nancy-Bird

Australian airline's first A380 aircraft has been named after Nancy-Bird Walton, the 92-year-old aviation pioneer who learnt to fly in 1933 at the age of 17 and became Australia's first woman to be licensed as a commercial pilot.

(1896-1974): Defence Minister and Minister without Portfolio in Nehru Cabinet. Orator and writer, distinguished himself with incandescent eloquence at the U. N. on Kashmir issue, 1955.

Menuhin, Yehudi (1916-'99): World-famous violinist. b. New York of Russian Jewish parentage. First appeared as soloist at age 7.

Mercouri, Melina (1924-'94): Greek actress and activist. Became an instant international star ('60) in *Never On Sunday*.

Merrill, Charles (1885-1956): American investment banker, who co-founded Merrill Lynch & Co.

Michelangelo (1475-1564): Italian painter, sculptor, architect and poet. Painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (a surface of about 6,000 square feet), *Last Judgement*, *Pieta*.

Mill, John Stuart (1806-'73): English philosopher and economist. *On Liberty*.

Milne, Alan Alexander (1882-1956): English humorist and poet whose work for children is still widely read.

Milton, John (1608-'74): English poet. After he went blind he wrote *Paradise Lost*, one of world's greatest epics. *Paradise Regained*.

Mirza, Sania (b. 1986): India's highest ranked female tennis player and first Indian woman to enter the third round of a Grand Slam tournament (Australian Open 2005). Reached US Open third round, 2007. Arjuna Award, Padma-Shri.

Mitra, Sombhu (1915-'97): A peerless stage actor with great influence on Indian theatre scene.

Mittal, Lakshmi (b. 1950): Billionaire steelmaker. Chairman of Arcelor-M



Lakshmi Mittal

tal Co. The richest man in Europe. Son Aditya Mittal is its CFO. Lakshmi Mittal built up his empire from a single steel mill on Indonesian rice fields in 1976. He was named world's 15th most admired

CEO in 2005. Richest Indian.

Mitterrand, Francois (1916-'96): French socialist politician, fourth president of the Fifth Republic, 1981. Re-elected, 1988.

Modigliani, Amedeo (1884-1920): Italian painter and sculptor.

Mohamad, Dr. Mahathir bin (b.1925): Prime Minister of Malaysia since 1981.

Mohammed, Prophet (570-632): Mohammed is believed by Muslims to be the Last Messenger of God to mankind. *The Quran*, the Sacred Book of Islam, is believed to be the Word of God, revealed to Mohammed in stages over 23 years. Received the first revelation and the command to preach at the age of 40; taught that there is only one God. Forced to migrate from Mecca to Medina in 622, the year of the Hegira. He returned to Mecca where the Kaaba is regarded as the holiest shrine in Islam and the focal point of the Haj pilgrimage.

Moliere (Jean Baptiste Poquelin), (1622-73): French playwright and actor.

Molotov, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich (1890-1986): Russian revolution leader and Soviet statesman. Controlled foreign affairs.

The Wealthiest Is Mined

According to *The Sunday Times* 2008 annual Rich List, Lakshmi Mittal was the wealthiest person in Britain with a fortune of £412.8b.

Navalankar, Ganesh Vasudeo (1888-1956): First Lok Sabha Speaker, who had played active role in India's Non-cooperation and Civil Disobedience movements.

Maxim, Hiram Stevens (1840-1916): American who invented the Maxim machine gun.

Maxwell, James Clerk (1831-'79): British physicist, whose work revolutionised fundamental physics. First scientific paper at 15.

Mayer, Louis Burt (1885-1957): Film executive of note in USA in the thirties and forties. Founded a film production company in 1912. Vice President of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Mazarin, Jules (1602-61): French cardinal and statesman, born in Italy. Chief minister under Anne of Austria.

Mazumdar Shaw, Kiran (b.1953): Entrepreneur who has become. 'India's biotech queen'. M.D. of Biocon, one of world's leading biotechnology companies. Padma Bhushan, 2005.

Mazzini, Giuseppe (1805-'72): Italian patriot; dominated movement for nationalism.

Mboya, Tom (1930-69): Kenyan political leader. General Secretary of KANU, minister under Jomo Kenyatta. Assassinated

McEnroe, John (b. 1959): U.S. tennis genius, youngest to win U.S. men's singles (1979).

McLuhan, Marshall (1911-1980): Canadian communications writer; *The Medium is the Message*.

Meera Behn (1892-1982): British disciple of Gandhiji. Real name Madeline Slade. Padma Vibhushan.

Mehmood, Talat (1924-'98): Ghazal singer par excellence. Once Dilip Kumar's voice.

Mehndi, Daler (b. 1968): Popular Punjabi pop singer.

Mehta, Pherozeshah (1845-1915): One of the founders of the Indian National Congress, a pioneer of 'Swadeshi'.

Mehta, Ved (b. 1934): Indian author and journalist. Settled in New York. Blind at age 3. Writer for the *New Yorker*. *Portrait of India, Face to Face, Walking the Indian Streets*.

Mehta, Zubin (b. 1936): Indian-born musician and conductor of world-famous Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 130-member New York Philharmonic Orchestra.



Zubin Mehta

Meir, Mrs. Golda (1898-1978): First woman to be Israeli Prime Minister, 1969-1974.

Menchu, Rigoberta (b. 1959): Guatemalan Indian leader and human rights campaigner. Nobel Peace Prize, 1992.

Mendel, Gregor Johann (1822-'84): Austrian botanist who discovered the basic laws of heredity.

Menon, Kumara Padmanabha Sivasankara (1898-1982): Indian diplomat and author. Foreign Secretary whose son K.P.S. Menon Jr. also held the same post later. *The Flying Troika*.

Menon, Vallathol Narayana (1878-1958): Indian (Malayalam) poet, patriot. Founder of Kerala Kala Mandalam. *Badhiravilapam*.

Menon, Vengalil Krishnan Krishna

A Solar Taxi for the UN Chief

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon commuted to his office in a 'solar taxi' to help raise awareness about climate change. The vehicle, sponsored by Switzerland, was developed by Louis Palmer.

lisher and entrepreneur born in Australia. His company, News Corp., owns Fox Broadcasting Company and several British national papers, including *The Times* and *The Sun*. He also owns 20th Century Fox, HarperCollins (UK publishers), and the satellite broadcasting company DirecTV.

Murthy, N.R. Narayana (b.1946): Co-founder, (1981), CEO of India's IT leader Infosys Technologies. Small-town boy who rose to be a billionaire and a pioneer of 21st century Indian industry. Retired in 2006; now Chief Mentor and non-executive Chairman. Named world's 8th most admired CEO in 2006.

Mussolini, Benito (1883-1945): Fascist dictator of Italy, 1922-43. In 1940 he entered the war on the side of Hitler. Defeat in North Africa and the invasion of Sicily caused the collapse of his government. Killed by partisans.

Nabokov, Vladimir (1899-1977):

freedom struggle. First woman Governor of an Indian state (U.P.). *Golden Threshold, Bird of Time, Broken Wing*.

Naipaul, Vidiadhar Surajprasad (b. 1932): British writer, born in Trinidad of Indian descent. Nobel prize, 2001. *Miguel Street, A House for Mr. Biswas, A Bend in the River, A Way in the World*.

Nair, Madath Thekkepat Vasudevan (b. 1934): Well-known Malayalam novelist; Gyanpith award 1995 for *lukettu*.

Nair, Mira: (b. 1957): Indian film director. *Salaam Bombay, Mission: Mumbai*



Mission: Mumbai (Golden Gate award, 2007).

Nambiar, Sriprad, Siamkum Manas (b. Sankaran Nambiar (SS): Indian politician and writer. *Secret*

Monod, Jacques (1910-'76): French biochemist who, with Francis Jacob, proposed the existence of messenger RNA. Nobel Prize 1965 shared with Jacob and Andre Lwoff.

Monroe, Marilyn (1926-'62): (real name: Norma Jean Mortenson (later Baker). American film star and charming sex symbol of her times. *The Seven Year Itch*, *The Misfits*.

Montessori, Maria (1870-1952): Italian educationist, who developed an educational system based on giving children freedom in a specially prepared environment.

Moon, Dr. Sun Myung (b.1920): Evangelist born in Korea, founder of the Unification Church, which he shifted to USA; has a multimillion dollar business empire.

Moore, Bobby (1941-'93): Soccer legend, he captained England to its World Cup triumph in 1966. Played 1000 league games.

Moraes, Frank (1907-'74): Eminent Indian journalist. Editor, *Indian Express*, *Times of India*. His son Dom Moraes (1938-2004), poet.

More, Sir Thomas (1478-1535): English statesman, author and martyr; Lord Chancellor. On his refusal to recognise Henry VIII as head of the church, he was executed. His *Utopia* describes an ideal state.

Morita, Akio (1921-99): Electronic pioneer; Co-founder of Sony Corp.

Morris, Jan (b.1926): England-born Welsh travel writer and historian. 40 books and countless essays. *Venice*, *Pax Britannica* trilogy, *Hav*, *Trieste and the Meaning of Nowhere*.

Morrison, Toni (b. 1931): Black US novelist. Won the Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes and the PEN/Borders Literary Service Award. *Beloved*, *Paradise*.

Morse, Samuel (1791-1872): American artist and inventor; invented telegraphy and the dot-and-dash code that bears his name.

Mountbatten of Burma (Louis Mountbatten) (1900-'79): British admiral and statesman, great-grandson of Queen Victoria. In WW II, chief of combined operations in 1942. Last Viceroy of India and first Governor-General of the dominion. Assassinated.

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus (1756-'91): Austrian composer. One of world's great musical geniuses. Began his career at four and toured Europe at six. Three of the greatest operas in musical history are his *Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*.

Mueller, Prof. Max (1823-1900): German indologist and linguist. Taught Sanskrit at Oxford University, 1848. *India-What Can It Teach Us*, *The Science of Language*.



Robert Mugabe

Mugabe, Robert Gabriel (b. 1924): First Prime Minister of independent Zimbabwe, 1980; now President.

Murdoch, Colln (1929-2008): Inventor of the disposable syringe, the

tranquilliser gun, the childproof bottle cap and the silent burglar alarm. Accused of fraud in 2002 election.

Murdoch, Rupert (b. 1931): US pub-

The King's Evil

Lexicographer Samuel Johnson was prone to ill-health throughout his life. At the age of three he was taken to London to be touched by the monarch for scrofula, tuberculosis of the lymph nodes, which was also known as the King's evil.

Nero, Claudius Caesar (A.D. 37-68): Roman emperor. Weak and licentious; persecuted Christians. The fire of Rome during his reign. Committed suicide.

Newman, John Henry Cardinal (1801-'90): Outstanding religious thinker and essayist of 19th century; author of *Lead Kindly Light*.

Newton, Sir Isaac (1642-1727): English scientist, known for his work on the composition of white light, calculus and the theory of gravitation. *Principia Mathematica*

Nicholas II (1868-1918): Last emperor and Tsar of Russia. When revolution broke out in 1917 he and his family were shot dead.

Nietzsche, Friedrich (1844-1900): German philosopher and poet, known for his concept of the overman or superman. *Thus Spake Zarathustra*.

Nightingale, Florence (1820-1910): English nurse and founder of modern nursing. During the Crimean war, she organised a nursing service. Known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

Nivedita, Sister (1867-1911): Irish woman (Margaret Elizabeth Nobel) who became disciple of Swami Vivekananda and was in India for 12 years.

Nixon, Richard Milhous (1913-'94): Republican President of the U.S., 1969-74. A process of reconciliation with China begun. The Watergate conspiracy led to his resignation, 1974.

Nkrumah, Kwame (1909-'72): First premier of Ghana, 1957 and first President of the republic, 1960. Overthrown in 1966.

Nobel, Alfred Bernhard (1833-'96): Swedish inventor and philanthropist.

Discovered dynamite. Bequeathed a fund for annual prizes now known as Nobel Prizes.

Nooyi, Indra (b.1955): CEO, of Pepsi Co. Born in Chennai. World's fifth most powerful woman, in Forbes poll, 2007. Fortune magazine's Most Powerful Woman in Business, 2006.

Nostradamus or Michel De Notre Dame (1503-66): French astrologer and physician, known for his prophecies.

Nyerere, Julius

(1922-'99): Former Tanzanian President and popular African leader. Chairman, South Commission.

Obama, Barack (b. 1961): Nominee of the Democratic party for the office of US President, 2008. First African-American to be a major political party's nominee for this office.

Oberoi, Mohan Singh (1900-2002): India's famous hotelier. From humble beginning rose to own international chain of hotels.

Ogilvy, David (1912-'99): Doyen of the advertising world, founder of the international ad agency, Ogilvy & Mather.

Ojukwu, Odumegwu (b. 1933): Head of the secessionist state of Biafra (1967-70), which was part of Nigeria. After the conflict, he fled the country but returned later.

Olajuwon, Hakeem (b. 1963): US basketball player, born in Nigeria. Held the record for blocked shots. Nickname:



Indra Nooyi

Oprah, the Donor

Oprah Winfrey, the highest paid TV celebrity, has topped the list of the 30 most celebrities for the second year running. Oprah Winfrey Foundation and Op Network spent \$ 50.2 m. in 2007 on philanthropy.

Old Man of India'.

Lapier, John (1550-1617): Scottish mathematician and clergyman. Invented logarithms and the modern notation of fractions.

Napoleon I (Bonaparte) (1769-1821): French emperor and general. Brilliant victories over Austrians and Russians. The Allies forced him to abdicate. In 1815, defeated at Waterloo and exiled to St. Helena.

Narain, Jayaprakash (1902-'79): Sarvodaya leader of India, known popularly as Loknayak. Social reformer with socialistic zeal; author. Instrumental in the formation of the Janata Party. Bharat Ratna.

Narayana Guru, Sri (1855-1928): One of the most illustrious social reformers and religious leaders, born in Kerala, India. Thinker and mystic who tried to improve the lot of backward classes. Spread the message of equality of men, irrespective of religion. Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Sangam formed in 1903

Narayan, Rashipuram Krishnaswami (1906-2001): Indian writer in English. Padma Bhushan. *The Guide, Swami and Friends, Malgudi Days.*

Narayanan, Kocheril Raman (1921-2005): President, from 1997-2002. Vice President, 1992-'97. Joined the foreign service after graduating from London School of Economics. Diplomat (was ambassador to China, USA, etc.), M P, educationist (V.C., Jawaharlal Nehru University), Union Minister (Planning, External Affairs, Science and Technology).

Narendra Dev, Acharya (1889-1956): Indian scholar, socialist leader and educationist. A leader of the Con-

gress Socialist Party (1934) and V C of Lucknow university and B.H.U.

Narlikar, Dr. Jayant V. (b. 1938): Indian astronomer. Research into 'black holes'. Worked with Prof. Fred Hoyle in Cambridge. Bhatnagar Award, Kalinga Award (1996).

Nassar, Gamal Abdel (1918-'70): Egyptian statesman and leader of the Arab world. Deposed General Nguib (1954). President, 1956. Nationalised the Suez Canal (1956). One of the founders of NAM.

Navratilova, Martina (b. 1956): One of the all time greats in tennis. U.S. citizen born in Czechoslovakia. Wimbledon 9



Martina Navratilova

times, US Open 4 times. 167 singles and 162 doubles titles.

Nehru, Pandit Jawaharlal (1889-1964): First Prime Minister (1947-1964) and architect of modern India. Close associate of

Mahatma Gandhi. Ardent democrat, internationalist, advocate of scientific method and modern technology. One of the founders of NAM. Daughter Indira Gandhi and grandson Rajiv Gandhi became PMs. Bharat Ratna. *Glimpses of World History, Discovery of India.*

Nehwal, Sania (b.1990): The first Indian woman to become Badminton Grand Prix champion.

Nelson, Horatio (1758-1805): Foremost admiral in the history of England. Destroyed the French fleet at Trafalgar (1805), but lost his life.

The Golden Calf

Damien Hirt's work 'The Golden Calf', a white bullock preserved in formaldehyde with its hooves and horns made of 18-carat gold and a gold disc over its head, was sold in September '08 for £10.35 m. He sold 54 new art works for £70.55 m. - a record.

man. This incident resulted in boycott of the bus system and strengthened civil rights movement.

Passolini, Pier Paolo (1922-'75): Italian film maker, poet, novelist and critic.

Pasternak, Boris (1890-1960): Russian writer and poet. In 1958 awarded Nobel Prize but declined the offer. *Dr. Zhivago*.

Pasteur, Louis (1822-'95): French chemist, founder of microbiology. His investigations led to the science of immunology.

Patel, Dr. Indraprasad Gordhanbhai (1924-2005): Indian economist. Principal of Baroda College at age 25. Served in IMF; Governor, RBI; Director, London School of Economics (1984-1990).

Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai (1875-1950): The "Iron-Man of India". Leading freedom fighter.

Worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi. Key role in the integration of India's princely states with the Union. Deputy Prime Minister in Nehru government. Bharat Ratna.



Vallabhbhai Patel

Pathak, Gopal

Swarup (1886-1982): Vice-President of India, 1969-1974.

Patil, Pratibha Devisingh (b. 1934): President of India since July 25, 2007. The first Indian woman to hold the post of Head of State. Formerly Governor of Rajasthan (2004-07), Cabinet Minister, Maharashtra. Began political career in 1962. Social worker and advocate.

Patkar, Medha (b. 1956): Indian so-

cial activist, environmentalist; firebrand leader of Save Narmada movement. Right Livelihood Award.

Paul, Lord Swraj (b. 1931): Britain-based Indian industrialist. Member, House of Lords; VC of Wolverhampton University.

Pauling, Linus Carl (1901-'94): American scientist who won Nobel Prize for Chemistry (1954) and for Peace (1962). Known for opposition to nuclear tests.

Pavarotti, Luciano (1935-2007): Italian singer, considered the greatest tenor of his times. Retired from staged opera in 2004.

Pavlov, Ivan Petrovich (1849-1936): Russian physiologist. Nobel Prize, 1904.

Paz, Octavio (1914-'98): Mexican poet. Nobel Prize, 1990. Ambassador to India, 1962-68. *Labyrinth of Solitude*, *Sun Stone*.

Peale, Rev. Norman Vincent (1898-1993): American religious leader, who preached positive thinking for more than half a century.

Pearson, Lester Bowles (1897-1972): Canadian statesman, PM (1963-'68). Nobel Peace Prize, 1957.

Pele (Edson Arantes Do Nascimento) (b. 1940): Brazilian soccer player. A world star at 17. Played in all four World Cup championship tournaments from 1958 to 1970. The first player ever to play on three world championship teams. Scored 1281 goals in 1363 games.

Pepys, Samuel (1633-1703): British naval administrator, known for his Diary, written from Jan. 1, 1660 to May 31, 1669.

Peron, Juan Domingo (1895-1974):

Longest-Reigning Monarch

King Louis XIV of France became King at the age of five and remained in power for 72 years. Queen Victoria of Britain became queen at the age of 18 and ruled for 63 years.

Dream'.

er, Laurence (1907-'89): British actor and director, especially in Shakespearean roles.

ar Khayyam (1050-1123):

Iranian poet and astronomer. His Rubaiyat translated into English by Edward Fitzgerald.

ssis, Aristotle (384-322):

Greek philosopher, scientist, statesman, and shipowner. Married Jacqueline Kennedy.

ort, Jan (1900-'92): Dutch astronomer. Proposed the existence of the Oort cloud, a vast collection of ice chunks far beyond Pluto.

rwell, George (Eric Arthur Blair) (1903-50): English satirist, born in India. *Animal Farm*.

Isborne, Adam (1939-2003): Computer technologist. He produced the first portable computer.

Otto I (The Great) (912-973): King of Germany and Holy Roman Emperor.

Owens, John Cleveland ('Jesse') (b. 1913): American athlete. First man to win 4 track and field gold medals (100 m, 200 m, long jump, 4x100 m relay) in single Olympics (1936).

Pachauri, Dr. Rajendra K (b. 1940): Economist and environmental scientist, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which won the Nobel Prize in 2007. Head of TERI since 1981. Padma Bhushan.

Packer, Kerry (1937-2005): Australian media mogul believed to have been



Laurence Olivier

the richest person in Australia.

Paes, Leander (b. 1974): Indian winner of Wimbledon junior men's singles title, Davis Cup Captain, 1990. In '96, won a bronze medal at Atlanta Olympics. Six-time Grand Slam doubles title winner, better known for his exploits in the doubles with Mahesh Bhupathi including Wimbledon '99.

Pal, Bachendri (b. 1956): The first Indian woman and the fifth woman in the world to scale Mount Everest (1984).

Palkhivala, Nani (1920-2002): Eminent Indian jurist. Ambassador to USA, 1977-79. Padma Vibhushan, 1998.

Pandit, Vijayalakshmi (1900-'90): Sister of Jawaharlal Nehru; First woman in India to become Minister (U.P., 1937); India's High Commissioner to UK (1956-'62); Ambassador to the U.S. and USSR. First woman President of UN General Assembly (1954). Governor, Maharashtra (1962-'64).

Panikkar, Sardar K. M. (1894-1963): Scholar, historian, diplomat. Minister in Pati-ala, Bikaner. Ambassador to China, Egypt and France. Member, States Reorganisation Commission. V-C, Kashmir & Mysore Universities.

Pant, Gobind Ballabh (1887-1961): Freedom fighter; Chief Minister, U.P. and Home Minister in Nehru cabinet. Bharat Ratna.

Parker, Dorothy (1893-1967): American writer, known for her wit. *Enough Rope* and *Death and Taxes* are poetry volumes. *Laments for the Living* and *After Such Pleasures* are short story collections.

Parks, Rosa (1913- 2005): US black civil rights activist. Made news by refusing to give her seat on a public bus to a white

Time Without a Monarch

The only time Britain has been without a king since 1066 was after the Civil War and the execution of Charles I. Oliver Cromwell, one of the leaders in the Civil War, led the government. Monarchy was brought back and Charles II became the monarch in 1660.

Pompidou, Georges (1911-'74):
French PM and President, after de Gaulle ('69).

Post, Emily (1873-1960): Writer and arbiter of American manners. *Emily Post's Etiquette*.

Prasad, Dr. Rajendra (1884-1963): Statesman and Gandhian. First President of the Republic of India, 1950-'62. Bharat Ratna.



Premchand, Munshi (1880-1936): Hindi writer whose real name was Dhanpat Rai. A pioneer of modern social fiction. *Godan*, *Sevasadan*, *Rangamanch*, *Ghaban*, *Nirmala*.

Presley, Elvis (1935-'77): US popular singer, whose fusion of Black rhythm and blues and white country styles created modern pop music. He is the most successful recording artist in history with hits like *Hound Dog*, *Don't be cruel*, and *Suspicious Minds*. He also acted in numerous films.

Pritam, Amrita (1919-2005): Indian poetess and novelist. Gyanpith award. *Kagaz ke Kanwaz*.

Proust, Marcel (1871-1922): French novelist whose masterpiece was the 12-volume *Remembrance of Things Past*.

Pushkin, Alexander (1799-1837):
Russian poet. *Eugene Onegin*, *The Captive of the Caucasus*.

Pythagoras (c. 582-500 B.C.): Greek philosopher and mathematician. He saw in numbers the key to the understanding of the universe.

Quasimodo, Salvatore (1901-'68): Italian poet associated with hermeticism. Nobel Prize.

Quisling, Vidkun (1887-1945): Norwegian politician who helped the enemy during German invasion of Norway. Seized as a traitor and shot. The word 'quisling' means 'traitor'.

Radhakrishnan, Dr. Sarvepalli (1888-1975): Indian scholar, philosopher, writer and statesman. First Vice-President (1952-62) and second President (1962-7) of India. Formerly a professor at Oxford and Chairman of UNESCO. Bharat Ratna, Templeton award. *The Hindu View of Life*, *Indian Philosophy*.

Rafi, Mohammed (1926-'80) *محمد رفی*
top playback singer. More than 20,000
songs.

Rahman, A.R. (b. 1967) - Indian film music director. *See* *Indian Cinema*

Rahman, Sheikh M
'75): Father of the

The first men to conquer the Everest were Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal (1953). Jang Numa of Tibet, Heinrich Harrer of Austria, and Adolf Reist of Switzerland followed in 1956.

President and dictator of Argentina. Deposed by army (1955), went into exile, returned (1973), re-elected president. Third wife Maria Isabel succeeded him as President.

Phelps, Michael (b. 1985): American swimmer who has won 14 career Olympic gold medals, the most by an Olympian. Phelps also holds the record for the most gold medals won at single Olympics, eight golds at Beijing.

Phule, Mahatma Jotirao Govindrao (1827-'90): Social reformer of India who worked for the downtrodden, women's education, social justice and against child marriage. Wife Savitribai (1831-'97) was a forerunner of women's liberation, pioneer of women's education.

Picasso, Pablo Ruiz (1881-1973): Spanish painter, sculptor and ceramicist. Described as the century's most prolific and versatile artist. One of the originators of Cubism. *Guernica*.

Packer, William (1909-2004): American space programmer who guided NASA's moon missions.

Pillai, Thakazhi, Sivasankara (1915-99): Indian writer (Malayalam) Gyanpith award. *Chemmeen, Kayar*.

Pinter, Harold (b.1930): British dramatist, actor and director. Plays known for their elusive dialogue and atmosphere of menace. *The Caretaker, The Homecoming, Moonlighting*. Nobel Prize, 2005.

Pitman, Sir Isaac (1813-'97): English inventor of a system of phonographic shorthand.

Pitroda, Satyanarayan Gangaram (b. 1942): Technocrat. Popularly known as Sam Pitroda. The man behind India's telecom revolution in 1980s. Chairman of

World Tel (an agency for ITU). Chairman of National Knowledge Commission.

Pitt, William (1759-1806): ('the Younger Pitt') English statesman; the youngest Prime Minister (at 24), 1783.

Planck, Max (1858-1947): German physicist who originated the quantum theory. His theory was applied by Einstein, Bohr and others. Nobel 1918.

Plato (427-347 B.C.): Greek philosopher and educator; pupil of Socrates, teacher of Aristotle. *Dialogues*, which includes the *Republic*, the longest and most celebrated work.

Podolski, Lukas (b.1985): German (born in Poland) striker named Best Young Player at World Cup 2006 by FIFA.

Poe, Edgar Allan (1809-'49): American poet and story writer. *The Raven, To Helen*.

Poitier, Sidney (b. 1924): US film actor. First black actor to win Oscar for best actor. *Lilies of the Field, Good-bye Mr. Chips..*



Sidney Poitier

Pol Pot (1928-'98): Notorious leader of the dreaded Khmer Rouge (Cambodia) accused of genocide and held responsible for massacre of 1.5 to 2 m. people during his regime of 1975-'79. Also known as Saloth Sar.

Pollock, Paul Jackson (1912-56): American painter famous for his 'drip painting' technique.

Polo, Marco (c. 1256-1323): The most famous European traveller in the Far East,

The King and I

Siam (now Thailand) had a King by name Mongkut or Rama IV, who ruled from 1851 to '68. He was the 43rd child of King Rama II, and had 39 wives and 82 children. The musical 'King and I' and the film 'Anna and the King' were inspired by his life.

Rao, Pamulaparthi Venkata Narasimha (1921-2004): Prime Minister of India, 1991-'96. Formerly, Chief Minister (Andhra Pradesh) 1971-'73. Union Minister (External Affairs, Defence, Human Resources) 1980 onwards.

Rao, Raja (1908-2006): Novelist, famous for his contributions to Indian English literature. *Kanthapura*, *Serpent* and *The Rope*. Padma Bhushan.

Raphael, Saint (1438-1520): Italian painter and architect. Associated with the rebuilding of St. Peter's.

Rasputin, Grigori (1871-1916): Russian courtier and religious figure. At the court of Nicholas II, he exerted influence over the Tsarina. Murdered by a group of nobles.

Ray, Satyajit (1921-'92): The greatest Indian film director. Won special Oscar award and Bharat Ratna in 1992. His films are notable for their realistic portrayal of everyday life. *Pather Panchali*, *Aparajita*, *Charulata*.

Reagan, Ronald (1911-2004): U.S. President, 1981-'88; former T.V. and film star, 1937-'66. Governor of California, 1967-'74.

Reddy, Neelam Sanjiva (1913-'96): President of India, 1977-1982, before which he was Chief Minister (A.P.), Union Minister, and Speaker, Lok Sabha. Freedom fighter.

Reeve, Christopher (1942-2004): Actor best known for the 'Superman' movies. A horseback riding accident in



Ronald Reagan

1995 left him paralysed. *Still Me*.

Rembrandt, Harmenszoon (1606-'69): Dutch painter and etcher, one of the undisputed giants of Western art.

Reuter, Paul Julius (1816-'99): German pioneer of telegraphic press service, who organised Reuter's international news agency.

Rhee, Syngman (1875-1965): Ardent Korean nationalist and first President of S. Korea. Rule noted for repression and corruption.

Rhodes, Cecil John (1853-1902): British statesman and empire builder. At 35, one of world's richest men. Prime Minister, Cape Colony. Developed Rhodesia, which was named after him. Scholarships in his name.

Ricardo, David (1772-1823): English political economist. Principles of Political Economy and Taxation.

Richard, Cliff (b. 1940): British pop star, born in India as Harry Rodger Webb. *Living Doll* (1959), *Congratulations* (1969). 115 songs.

Richter, Dr. Charles F. (1900-'85): American inventor of Richter scale, which gauges the energy released by an earthquake as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

Rimbaud, Jean Nicolas (1854-'91): French poet. Prepared the way for symbolism. At 18 completed his memoirs *Une Saison en Enfer*.

Roberts, Julia (b.1970): Academy award-winning American actress. Best Actress for playing the title role in the movie *Erin Brockovich*.

Robeson, Paul (1898-1962): American singer and actor. Remembered for his singing of 'Swanee River'.

A Picture A Day

Vincent Van Gogh, the 19th century Dutch painter, known for a picture a day in the last 70 days of his life. During 1888-89 pictures.

Bangladesh, and its first President and Prime Minister. Killed in a coup on Aug. 5, 1975. His daughter Sheikh Hasina became PM in 1996.

Rahman, Ziaur (1937-1981): Former President of Bangladesh; rose to power in 1975, through a coup; assassinated. His wife, Begum Khaleda Zia, later became PM.

Rai, Aiswarya (b. 1974): Indian beauty queen who was crowned Miss World at Sun City, Johannesburg in 1994. A brilliant Hollywood star, the first Indian actress to be on Cannes jury. Married to Amitabh Bachchan's son Abhishek Bachchan.

Rai, Lala Lajpat (1865-1928): Indian patriot and prominent freedom fighter, known as the 'Lion of the Punjab' (Punjab Kesri).

Raj, Dr. Kakkadan Nandanth (b. 1924): Indian economist and Professor, former VC of Delhi University, Director of Delhi School of Economics. Co-founder, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

Rajagopalachari, Chakravarti (1878-1972): The first and last Indian Governor-General of India (1948-'50). Rajaji. CM, Madras; Union Minister, Home Minister in Nehru's cabinet, and Governor, West Bengal. Founded Swatantra Party. Bharat Ratna, 1954.

Rajneesh (Chandra Mohan Jain) (1931-'90): Charismatic godman of India, also known as



C. Rajagopalachari

Osho. Set up ashram at Pune, and 'Rajneeshpuram' on 64,000 acres in Oregon, USA. Turned controversial.

Raleigh, Sir Walter (1552-1618): adventurer and writer. In 1584 began the colonisation of Virginia. He was executed.

Ramachandran, Marathur Gopala (1917-'87): Film star-turned politician of India, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Bharat Ratna, 1988.

Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Sri (1836-'86): Religious leader of India who taught that God-realisation is the only goal of life. Chief disciple was Swami Vivekananda. Ramakrishna Mission after his name.

Raman, Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata (1888-1970): Indian physicist whose research on the diffusion of light (discovery of "Raman effect") a phenomenon of scattered light rays earned him Nobel Prize, 1930. Founded Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Lenin Peace Prize, Bharat Ratna.

Ramanujan, Srinivasa (1887-1920): One of the greatest mathematicians India has ever produced.

Ramanna, Dr. Raja (1926-2004): Indian nuclear physicist; He was Director, Shabha Atomic Research Centre, Secretary, Atomic Energy Dept., Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (1984) and Union Minister.

Ramanuja, Acharya (11th.c.): Vaishnavite guru of India, Founder of Rama Bhakti movement.

Ranganathan, S.R. (1892-1972): Originator of the Colon Classification. Known as the Father of Indian Library Science.

Lord of the Flies

British novelist William Golding's novel 'Lord of the Flies' concerns the savagery of a group of schoolboys isolated on a desert island. He won the Nobel Prize in 1983. He was also awarded the Booker Prize for 'Rites of Passage' (1980).

Bharat Ratna, 1961.

Roy, Manabendra Nath (1887-1954): Real name, Narendranath Bhat-tacharya. Communist. Organised the Radical Democratic Party and Indian Federation of Labour and founded Mexi-can Communist Party.

Roy, Prafulla Chandra (1861-1944): Great scientist and father of modern Indian chemical industry. *The History of Hindu Chemistry*.

Roy, Prannoy (b. 1946): India's lead-ing psephologist and TV commentator. President of NDTV.

Roy, Raja Rammohan (1774-1833): Indian social reformer and scholar. Worked for the abolition of 'sati', child marriage and 'Purdah'. Founder of Brahma Samaj.

Rubinstein, Arthur (1887-1982): US pianist, born in Poland. Began public performance at age 11.

Rublyov, Andrey (1370-1430): Rus-sian artist, iconographer who retired to monastic life. Also known as Rublev.

Rushdie, Salman (b. 1946): In-dian born British writer. His controversial book *Satanic Verses* made Iran's spiri-tual leader Ayatollah Khomeini sentence him to death. Booker Prize. *Midnight's Children, The Moor's Last Sigh*.

Ruskin, John (1819-1900): English au-thor, social reformer and art critic. *Modern Painters* (5 volumes), *Unto This Last*.

Russell, Bertrand (1872-1970): English philosopher, mathematician and essayist. *The Principles of Mathematics, The Scientific Outlook, The Conquest of Happiness, The Autobiography, History of Western Philosophy*. Nobel Prize.

Ruth, Babe (1895-1948): US baseball

player whose real name was George Herman. Known by the nickname 'Sul-tan of Swat'. **Ryuno-suke, Akutagawa (1892-1927):** Japa-nese writer, dealt with madness and macabre social con-tradictions. Commit-ted suicide. Akutagawa Prize is Japan's top literary award.

Sadat, Anwar El (1919-'81): Egyptian soldier and politician. President, 1970-'81. Known for Camp David peace treaty. Assassinated. Nobel Peace Prize.

Saha, Arati (1933-'94): Indian swim-mer, the first woman from Asia to cross the English Channel.

Saha, Meghnad (1893-1956): Indian scientist who first attempted to develop a consistent theory of spectral sequence of the stars from the point of view of atomic theory.

Sakharov, Andrei (1921-'89): Soviet nuclear physicist, human rights activist. Nobel prize.

Saki, (pseudonym of Hector Hugu Munro) (1870-1916): British satirist and humorist. *The Unbearable Bassington, Reginald*.

Salk, Jonas (1915-'95): US microbiolo-gist who developed the first successful vaccine against polio.

Sampras, Pete (b. 1971): Ameri-can tennis star. Six Wimbledon men's singles titles. First player since Boris Becker in 1989 to win Wimbledon and the US Open in the same year (1993). Retired, 2003,



Bertrand Russell

Mountaineers

James Whittaker of USA and Nawang Gombu of India chose to be equal in success, neither wishing to deny the other the privilege of being first. Both are ranked 10th in the list of Everest Summitters (1963).

rituals.

Bespierre, Maximilien (1758-'94): French revolutionary; controversial, guillotined.

Robinson, Sir Edward Austin Gosse (1903-'93): Economist, Professor Emeritus at University of Cambridge, and abiding friend of India. Wife Joan Robinson, economist.

Rockefeller, John Davidson (1839-1937): American philanthropist and founder of the Rockefeller business empire; Founded Rockefeller University and Foundation. **Roentgen, Wilhelm Conrad von (1845-1923):** German scientist who discovered X-rays (1895). Nobel prize, 1901.

Roddick, Anita (1943-2007): Founder of Children on the Edge, the charitable organisation.

Rolland, Romain (1866-1944): French novelist and dramatist. Jean-Christophe, a ten-volume novel. Wrote biographies of Mahatma Gandhi and Vivekananda.

Ronaldo (Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima) (b.1977): Brazilian footballer, considered the next Pele. Top scorer in 2002 World Cup.

Rooney, Mickey (b.1920): US film actor who often

teamed with Judy

Garland. A *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Human comedy*.

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano (1882-1945): American statesman. U. S. President in 1933 till his death. The only



Ronaldo

man ever elected to four terms. Wife Eleanor was a public figure and a political personality.

Roosevelt, Theodore (1858-1919): American President. Popular because of his exploits in the Spanish-American war. Nobel prize.

Ross, Ronald (1857-1932): British physician and bacteriologist who discovered the malaria parasite. Born in India. Nobel prize, 1902.

Rousseau, Henri (1844-1910): French primitive painter. A collector of tolls (Hence also known as Le Douanier, meaning 'the customs official') who retired at 41 to take up painting.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1712-'78): French political philosopher whose views did much to stimulate the movement leading to the French Revolution. *Emile*, *Le Contrat Social*.

Row, Yellam Pragada Subba (1896-1948): Indian scientist (in US, 1920-1940's) who, along with Fiske, discovered creatine phosphate (1926), worked on the isolation and synthesis of folic acid.

Rowling, J.K. (b.1965): British author of the internationally famous series of children's fantasy stories concerning the exploits of the boy wizard *Harry Potter*. The richest celebrity in *Forbe's* list, with \$300 m. earnings in 2007.

Roy, Arundhati (b. 1960): The first Indian author to win Booker Prize (*The God of Small Things*), Environmentalist. Winner of Sydney Peace Prize, 2004.

Roy, Bidhan Chandra Dr. (1882-1962): Chief Minister of West Bengal (India), 1948-62; prominent physician.

The Hottest Curry

The London-based Indian chef Vivek Singh, the maker of the world's hottest curry 'Bollywood Burner', uses the Naga pepper and its seeds, which on the Scoville scale that measures the piquancy of peppers, has a figure of 855,000 - over 100 times hotter than the jalapeno pepper.

f Brazil, one of only 7 drivers to win the world championship three times. Killed in a crash during the San Marino Grand Prix.

Perpa, Kazi Lhendup Dorjee Khang (1904-2007): The first Chief Minister of Sikkim who was instrumental in the merger of Sikkim with the Indian Union. Padma Vibhushan, Sikkim Ratna.

Peshan, Tirunellay Narayana Iyer (b. 1932): India's Chief Election Commissioner 1990-'96. Defence Secretary (1998) and Cabinet Secretary (1999). Magsaysay award.

Pethi, Dr. P.K (1927-2008): Noted Indian orthopaedic surgeon and inventor of the 'Jaipur Foot'. Magsaysay Award, 1981.

Pethi, Geet (b. 1962): This unseeded player from India became the king of the world billiards championship in 1985. The youngest ever to wear the crown in his maiden appearance.

Shackleton, Ernest Henry (1874-1922): Antarctic explorer from Ireland. His expedition was within 155 km of the South Pole in 1909.

Shaftesbury, Anthony (1621-85): English statesman. Founded the Whig Party in 1673. Exiled, 1682.

Shakespeare, William (1564-1616): Greatest dramatist and poet of England. Unbeatable in mastery of language. Understanding of character and human perception. 37 plays, 154 sonnets, two poems. *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*.

Shankar (1902-'89): Indian cartoonist. Known for 'Cartoon Weekly', the International Cartoon Competition and the International Cartoon

Museum, all founded by him.

Shankar, Ravi (b. 1920): Internationally known Indian sitar maestro. Bharat Ratna. *My Music, My Life*.

Sharapova, Maria (b. 1987): Russian golden girl of tennis. Wimbledon 2004, US Open 2006, Aus. Open 2008. Highest paid female athlete.

Sharma, Dr. Shankar Dayal (1919-1999): President of India, 1992-97. Scholar, freedom fighter. Was Chief Minister of M.P., Congress President, Union Cabinet Minister, Governor and Vice-President.

Sharma, Rakesh (b. 1954): The first Indian cosmonaut to go into space, aboard Soyuz-T11 for a rendezvous with Salyut-7 (1984).

Shastri, Lal Bahadur (1904-'66): Indian politician who succeeded Nehru as India's second Prime Minister (June 1964-June 1966). Earlier, Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Minister in Charge of Industries.

Shaw, George Bernard (1896-1950): Irish dramatist and the greatest of his age. Conquered England by his wit. Nobel Prize, 1925. *Man and Superman*, *Pygmalion*, *Pygmalion*.

Sharma, Bhaishram Singh (b. 1923): Vice-President of India since August 13, 2002. Former Vice-President of India.

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Source: PPS, Ministry of Education

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Sankaracharya (788-820): (Adi San-
tara) Scholar and philosopher from India,
who revived the Hindu religion; founder
of Advaitic philosophy; established
mutts' all over India.

Sanyal, B.C. (1901-2003): Eminent
Indian painter, President of Lalit Kala
Akademy. Padma Bhushan.

Sappho (c. 612-c.580 B.C.): The great-
est female lyric poet of ancient Greece.

Sarabhai, Dr. Vikram (1919-'71):
Indian nuclear scientist who was Chair-
man of the Atomic Energy Commission.
Helped set up the Thumba rocket sta-
tion.

Saramago, Jose (b. 1924): Portu-
guese novelist. *Baltazar and Blimunda*.
Nobel Prize, 1998.

Saraswati, Dayanand (1824-'83):
Hindu social reformer. Founded Arya
Samaj school and fought for removal of
social evils.

Sartre, Jean-Paul (1905-'80): French
dra-matist, essayist, novelist and leader of
the philosophical movement, existential-
ism. *Being and Nothingness, The Roads to
Freedom, The Flies*. Nobel Prize (1964)
but he declined it.

Sastry, V.S. Srinivasa (1869-1946):
Associated with Servants of India Society;
promoted education and worked for
women's legal status.

Savitskaya, Svetlana (b. 1949): Soviet
cosmonaut; the first woman to walk in
space; the only woman to have made
two space flights.

Schumacher, Michael (b. 1967):
German 7-time Formula One world
champion. The first to win French Grand
Prix eight times. Retired in 2006.

Schwarzenegger, Arnold (b.1947):



Schumacher

Austrian-born Hol-
lywood action hero
(*Terminator, Preda-
tor and Total Recall*).
Took to Republican
politics, Governor of
California.

**Schweitzer, Albert
(1875-1965):** Ger-

man medical mis-
sionary, humanitar-

ian, musician and philosopher. Founded
at Lambarene in Africa a hospital to fight
leprosy and sleeping sickness and worked
there for over 50 years. Nobel Peace
Prize, 1952.

Scott, Sir Walter (1771-1832):
Scottish novelist and poet. *Ivanhoe*,
Kenilwarth.

Schwab, Virender (b. 1979): Crick-
eter. The first Indian to hit a triple century
in Tests. His 309 at Multan is India's high-
est Individual score.

Seles, Monica (b. 1973): of Yugoslavia.
At 17, the youngest world champion of
women's tennis. Twenty titles before the
age of 18. Stabbed mid-match in Ham-
burg in 1993, stayed away from tennis
for two years.

Sen, Amartya Kumar (b. 1933):
Indian economist, the Lamont Professor
of Philosophy and Economics at Harvard
University, Master of Trinity College,
Cambridge. Nobel Prize (1998), Bharat
Ratna.

Sen, Mihir (1930-'97): First Indian to
swim the English Channel. World record
in long distance swimming.

Sen, Mrinal (b. 1923): Famous Indian
film director. *Bhuvan Shame, Khoriz*.

Senna, Ayrton (1960-'94): Race driver

Autobiography at Age 24

Basketball player Magic Johnson's autobiography 'Magic' was published when he
was 24. He announced his infection with HIV in 1991. His retirement was greeted
with shock.

laring views; a passionate advocate of freedom. *Prometheus Unbound, Ode to the West Wind, The Skylark.*

Shiva, Vandana (b. 1952): Economist, environmentalist and physicist. Leads campaigns on biopiracy and biosafety.

Right Livelihood Award, 1993.

Shivaji (1627-

1680): The great

Maratha leader who

brought Mughal em-

peror Aurangzeb

and established a

Hindu state in the

Deccan. Crowned

king in 1674. Great

general and wise ruler.

Sholokhov, Mikhail (1905-'84): The foremost Russian realistic novelist. *And Quiet Flows the Dan.* Nobel prize, 1965.

Shourie, Arun (b. 1943): Outstanding Indian journalist. Former Union Cabinet Minister. Magsaysay award.

Shyamalan, Manoj Night (b. 1970): Acclaimed Indian-born Hollywood film director. *The Sixth Sense, Unbreakable.*

Sinatra, Frank (1915-'98): (Francis Albert) American singer, film actor. Singing idol of bobbysoxers in 1940s. 100 albums, 58 feature films. Oscar (*From Here To Eternity*) and Grammy lifetime achievement awards.

Singh, Bhagat (1907-'31): Indian patriot and revolutionary, hanged by British government for participation in the Lahore conspiracy.

Singh, Charan (1902-'87): Prime Minister of India July 1979-Jan. 1980. Deputy Prime Minister during Janata regime.

Singh, Khushwant (b. 1915): Journal-



Vandana Shiva

ist and writer, was editor of *Illustrated Weekly, National Herald, Hindustan Times*, etc. Member, Parliament. *History of the Sikhs, Train to Pakistan, End of India.*

Singh, Dr. Manmohan (b.1932): Indian statesman and economist. Prime Minister since May 22, 2004. The bureaucrat-turned-politician was formerly Finance Secretary, RBI Governor and UGC Chairman. As Finance Minister, 1991-96, introduced the pro-reform and liberalisation programme.

Singh, Paramjit (b. 1973): Indian sprinter who broke Milka Singh's 38-year old national 400 m. record in 1998.

Singh, Viswanath Pratap (b. 1931): Prime Minister of India, Dec. 1989 Nov. 1990. Crusader for social justice. Earlier, Union Minister. Janata Dal leader, and a painter.

Singh, Zail (1916-'94): President of India, 1982-87. A veteran freedom fighter; was minister (State and Central) and Chief Minister (Punjab).

Smith, Adam (1723-'90): Scottish economist, known as the 'Father of Economics'. *Wealth of Nations.*

Snow, Charles Percy (1905-'80): British writer and scientist, author of the essay *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Re-volution.*

Sobers, Gary (b. 1936): West Indian cricketer, an excellent all-rounder.

Socrates (470-399 B.C.): Greek philosopher, Plato's master. Charged with impiety and with corrupting the young, found guilty, died by drinking hemlock.

Solon (c. 638-558 B.C.): Athenian lawgiver; one of the Seven Wise Men of Greece.

The Youngest Nobel Laureate

William Lawrence Bragg of UK won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915 at the age of 25. He won the honour along with his father William Henry Bragg. The father-son duo discovered Bragg's Law of X-ray Diffraction.

Tamerlane (Timur the Lame) (1336-1405): A great warrior of Central Asia; ruler of Samarkand, he conquered Iran, Trans-caucasia, Iraq, Armenia, and Georgia.

Tandon, Purshottam Das (1882-1962): Prominent figure in the Indian freedom movement, Bharat Ratna 1961.

Tansen (c. 1492-1589): Original name Ramatanu Pande. Symbolises the best in Hindustani music. Name Tansen conferred by Akbar when he joined the Mughal court.

Tata, Jahangirji Ratanji Dadabhai (b. 1904-'93): Top Indian industrialist and organiser known for his vision and dynamism. He was the first Indian pilot to get a license. Chairman of Air India. Bharat Ratna.

Tatum, Edward Lawrie (1909-'75): American biochemist.

Taylor, Elizabeth (b. 1932): English-born American film actress. Married Richard Burton twice. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Temple, Shirley (b.1928): American film actress, and politician. The world's leading child film star in the thirties.



Elizabeth Taylor

Tendulkar, Sachin

(b. 1973): Indian cricketer, former Captain. At 16 played his first Test in Karachi. The youngest (at 19) to score 1000 runs in test cricket. The first batsman to score 10,000 runs in one-day cricket. India's

highest scorer in One Dayers. His 41 centuries in One-Day is a world record. Arjuna Award. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, '98.

Tendulkar, Vijay (b. 1928): Marathi playwright. Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Kalidas Samman, Padma Bhushan. *Kanya-daan*.

Tennyson, Alfred (1809-'92): English poet-laureate. *The Princess*, *In Memoriam*.

Tenzing, Norgay (1914-'86): With Edmund Hillary, he was the first to climb the Everest in 1953.

Teresa, Mother (1910-'97): Roman Catholic nun, born to Albanian parents in Yugoslavia, and baptized Agnes Gonxha Bejaxhui. Came to India as a teacher at Calcutta. Founded "Missionaries of Charity", devoted to working for destitutes. Citizen of India, 1962. Set up about 570 homes for the poor, spread in about 125 countries. Nobel Peace Prize, Magsaysay award, Templeton Award, Bharat Ratna.

Tereshkova, Valentina (b. 1937): Soviet cosmonaut who in 1963 became the first woman to make a space flight, aboard Vostok-VI.

Thackeray, Balasaheb (b. 1926): Shiv Sena supremo who began his career as a cartoonist at the age of 18.

Thackeray, William Makepeace (1811-'63): English novelist. *Vanity Fair*, *Pendennis*.

Thant, Sithu U. (1909-'74): Burmese diplomat; U.N. Secretary-General, 1962-1972.

Tharoor, Shashi (b.1956): UN Under Secretary General for

40 British Billionaires Born Abroad

According to the Sunday Times' 2008 Rich List, Britain is home to whom 40 are born abroad. Of the top 10, only three are born in the UK. The richest person, is followed by Russian oil tycoon Roman Abramovich (£7.5 b.). Sri and Gopi Hinduja are in 11th and 12th position.

roheim, Erich von (1885-1957): Austrian director, writer and actor. *reed.*

bbuiakshini, Madurai Shanmuga-divu (1916-2004): Famous Carnatic singer of India. Magsaysay award, 1974. Gave a special recital of devotional songs for the silver jubilee celebrations of UN in 1970. Bharat Ratna, 1998-first musician to receive the honour.

ubramaniam, C (1910-2000): Freedom fighter, known for his contribution to India's Green Revolution. Held posts of Union Minister, interim President of INA and Governor of Maharashtra (1990). Bharat Ratna, 1998.

ubramaniam, Ka Na (1912-'88): Renowned Tamil poet and critic. *Oru Nol, oi Thevu.*

udarsan, Prof. Ennackal Chandy George (b. 1931): Indian physicist famous for his particle theory on 'tachyons', faster than light. Advanced the theory of V-A (left handed) current, one of the four fundamental forces of nature. Worked in Rochester, now in Texas. Padma Vibhushan, 2007.

Sullivan, Louis (1856-1924): American architect; pioneered steel-frame construction; coined dictum 'Form Follows Function'.

Sun Yat-Sen (1867-1925): Chinese nationalist leader and statesman. He played a leading role in the revolutionary movement that overthrew monarchy in China in 1911. First President of the Republic of China.

Surrey, Henry Howard, Earl of (1517-47): English poet. Wrote sonnets and introduced blank verse into English poetry. Accused of treason, he

was executed.

Suu Kyi, Aung San (b.1945): Myanmar's champion of democracy, opposi-



Aung San Suu Kyi

tion leader detained by the military junta. She has spent over 12 of the past 19 years under house arrest. Nobel Prize.

Swami, Chattampi (1853-1924): (Srividyadhiraja Kunchan Pillai, later Sribalabhatarakeswaran).

Indian visionary and social reformer. Held close association with Sri Narayana Guru.

Swaminathan, Mankombu Sambasivan (b. 1925): Internationally known agricultural scientist of India. Was member, Planning Commission; Director General of IRRI, Manila. Heads M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. Presently Chairman, Commission for Farmers. Padmashri, Padmabhushan, Padmavibhushan, Magsaysay Award, World Food Prize.

Swedenborg, Emanuel (1688-1772): Swedish scientist, mystic, philosopher and theologian. *Heavenly Arcona.*

Swift, Jonathan (1667-1745): English satirist. *Gulliver's Travels.*

Tagore, Rabindranath (1861-1941): Indian poet and philosopher who introduced Indian culture to the West and vice versa. Founded Shantiniketan which later became Viswabharati University. Wrote national anthems of both India and Bangladesh. *Sonar Tori, Chaitoli, Kolpono, Chitrongoda, Gitonjali.* Nobel Prize 1913-first Asian to get it.

A Slave Who was King

Haitian ruler Henri Christophe was an ex-slave who served with Toussaint L'Ouverture, the slave who led a slave rebellion and became a governor general (1801). After Emperor Dessalines' assassination, he ruled N. Haiti (1808-20). His cruelty caused a revolt and he shot himself.

Trudeau, Pierre (b. 1919): Prime Minister of Canada-1968-79, 1980-84.

Truman, Harry S. (1884-1972): U.S. President, 1945-53. Took the decision to drop the first atom bomb.

Tulsi Das (1532-1623): Indian poet whose Hindi masterpiece *Ram-Charit-Manas* (*the Ramayana*) is venerated by Hindus as the Bible is in the West.

Tunku, Abdul Rehman (1903-1990): Malaysian politician, first PM of the independent country of Malaya (1963-70). The 'father of Malaysian independence'.

Turner III, Ted (Robert Edward) (b. 1938): The man whose vision created CNN (Cable News Network) Married Jane Fonda.

Turner, Joseph (1775-1851): English painter. *The Fighting Temeraire*.

Tussaud, Madame (1761-1850): Swiss wax modeller. Opened a museum in London containing life-size models of famous people, which is still a major tourist attraction.

Tutu, Desmond (b. 1931): South African clergyman who advocated non-violent resistance to apartheid. First black Anglican bishop of Johannesburg. Nobel peace prize.



Desmond Tutu

Twain, Mark (pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens) (1835-1910): America's leading humorist who used his wit to comment on social, political and moral problems. *Tom Sawyer, Huck-*

leberry Finn.

Tyson, Mike (b. 1967): Youngest man to win the world heavy weight championship.

Usha, P.T. (b. 1964): The first Indian woman (and the fifth Indian) to reach the final of an Olympic event by winning her 400 m hurdles semi-final. Missed a bronze by 1/100 of a second. Created new Asian Games records in all events she participated in X Asian Games, Seoul. 101 international medals. Known as Payyoli Express, Sprint Queen, and Golden Girl. Runs a sport academy.

Ustinov, Sir Peter (1921-2004): British actor, director and raconteur. Oscar award. *Dear Me*.

Utzon, John (b. 1918): Danish architect who created the Sydney Opera House.

Vaidyanathan, Nirupama (b. 1977): First Indian woman to win a round in a Grand Slam tournament (Australian Open, Jan. 98).

Vajpayee, Atal Bihari (b. 1924): Prime Minister of India from 1998 to 2004. Brilliant parliamentarian, orator, poet and journalist. Freedom fighter and social worker. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (1993). Headed BJP-led minority coalition govt. from May 16 to 28, 1996. Minister of External Affairs 1977-'79.

Van Gogh, Vincent (1853-'93): Distinguished Dutch painter - the first of the great modern Expressionist painters. Committed suicide.

Varma, Raja Ravi (1848-1907): One of the greatest early Indian artists. Member of the royal family of Kilimnoor.

Queen of Three Countries

Margaret was queen of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark, she married Haakon VI of Norway. Their son Olaf was king of Denmark and Haakon in Norway. After Olaf's death, Margaret was queen of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. In 1388, she was proclaimed Queen of Sweden. She died in 1412.

and Public Information, 2002-07. Selected in 2006 as India's candidate for the post of UN Secretary-General. Writer. Authored *The Great Indian Novel, India: from Midnight to Millennium*, etc.

Thatcher, Margaret Hilda (b. 1925): British Prime Minister 1979-90; first woman head of govt. in modern Europe. Third successive election victory, June 1987. On Jan. 3, 1988 longest serving PM since Asquith. Described as 'The Iron Lady'.



Margaret Thatcher

Thiers, Adolphe (1797-1877):

French historian who was premier and foreign minister. Authored the 10-volume *History of the French Revolution* and 20-volume *History of the Consulate and the Empire*.

Thiruvalluvar (c. 1st century): The greatest ever Tamil poet. *Thirukural*.

Thomas, St. : One of the 12 disciples of Christ who came to India in A.D. 52 and founded seven churches in Kerala.

Thoreau, Henry David (1817-'62): American essayist, naturalist and iconoclast, who rebelled against society and lived for a time in a solitary hut. *Walden, Civil Disobedience*.

Thorpe, Ian (b.1982): Australian swimmer. A record six titles at 9th FINA world swimming championships at Fukuoka.

Tilak, Bal Gangadhar (Lokmanya) (1856-1920): Indian patriot and statesman. "Swaraj is my birthright", the revolutionary said. In Burma, as exile for 6 years. The British called him the 'Father

of Indian unrest'. *Gitarahasyam*.

Tim Berners-Lee, Sir Tomothy John (b. 1955): The inventor of the World Wide Web. Named by Time magazine as one of the top 20 thinkers of the 20th century. Knighted in 2003.

Tipu, Sultan (c. 1750-'99): Indian prince, sultan of Mysore. French-backed wars against British. Defeated by Cornwallis. Killed when British stormed Seringapatam.

Titian (Tiziano Vecelli): (c. 1487-1576): Venetian painter. *Sacred and Profane Love*.

Tito (Josip Broz) (1892-1980): The Father of 'Modern Yugoslavia', Tito liberated his country from the Axis invaders. The exponent of 'national communism', he was the first communist Prime Minister (1945) and President, 1953. Co-founder of Non-Aligned Movement.

Tolstoy, Leo (1828-1910): Russian novelist and writer on ethics and religion. *War and Peace, Anna Karenina, Resurrection*.

Toynbee, Arnold Joseph (1889-1975): English historian and reformer. *A Study of History* (1934-54) in 10 volumes. His uncle Arnold Toynbee who died in 1883 was a reformer (and historian) who worked among the poor.

Travolta, John (b.1954): US film actor. He starred in the wildly successful *Saturday Night Fever*.

Trevelyan, George Macaulay (1876-1962): English historian. *History of England*.

Trotsky, Leon (1879-1940): Russian revolutionary; Supported the Menshevik against Lenin's Bolsheviks. Expelled from party. Assassinated.

Saints and Poets

Six eminent persons were honoured on the Indian Saints and Poets stamps issued by India on Oct. 1, 1952. They were: Kabir, Tulsidas, Meera Bai, Surdas, Ghalib and Tagore.

enin Shipyard in Gdansk in 1970, ten years later he led the strikers as leader of 'Solidarity'. Nobel Peace Prize.

Wallace, Edgar (1875-1932): English novelist and playwright; wrote detective thrillers. *The Four Just Men, The Ringer*.

Watson, Ernest (1904-'95): Irish scientist, who along with John Cockcroft, split the atom artificially for the first time, thus ushering in the nuclear age in 1932. Shared Nobel Prize.

Walton, Sam (1918-'92): One of the world's leading departmental-store-retail business-magnates. Owner of Wal-Mart stores chain.

Washington, George (1732-'99): First U.S. President, 1789-'97.

Watt, James (1736-1819): Scottish engineer and inventor after whom the watt as a unit of power is named.

Webster, Noah (1758-1843): American lexicographer.

Wells, (George) Orson (1915-'85): American film actor, writer, director, producer, *Citizen Kane* (1941), *The Third Man* (1949).

Wells, Herbert George (1866-1946): English author. *The Time Machine, Kipps, The Outline of History, The Shape of Things to come*.

West, Mae (1892-1980): American vaudeville artist and film actress.

White, Patrick Victor Martin Sale (1912-90): Novelist, the first Australian to win a Nobel Prize for literature (1973). *The Tree of Man, The Eye of the Storm*.

Whitefield, George (1714-70): Founder of the Calvinistic Methodist Church in England.

Whitman, Walt (1819-'92): American poet. *Leaves of Grass, Drum Taps*. Known for his elegies to Abraham Lincoln, ("O

Captain! My Captain!").

Whitney, Eli (1765-1825): American manufacturer, invented cotton gin.

Wiesel, Elie (b. 1928): Romanian-US novelist. Works reflect his experiences as a survivor of the Holocaust. Nobel Peace Prize, 1986. *Night, A Beggar in Jerusalem, The Forgotten*.

Wilde, Oscar (1854-1900): Irish author and dramatist, remembered for his flamboyant style and caustic wit. *A Woman of No Importance, The Picture of Dorian Gray, The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Wilhelmina (1880-1962): Queen of the Netherlands from 1890 until she abdicated in favour of her daughter Juliana in 1948.

Wilkinson, John (1728-1808): British industrialist who found many applications for iron. Known as 'the great Staffordshire ironmaster'.

Willard, Van Orman Quine (1908-2000): American philosopher and logician. *Two Dogmas of Empiricism, The Time of My Life*.

Williams, Venus (b. 1980) and Serena (b. 1981): Most successful tennis-playing sisters (USA). In 1999 won both French and US Open doubles titles. Venus beat Serena to win US Open 2001, and won Wimbledon in 2005.

Wilson, Shiny (b. 1965): Athlete, represented India in more than in 75 competitions, including four Olympic Games. First Indian woman athlete to enter semi-finals in Olympics.



Shiny Wilson

Highest Paid Entertainer

Michael Jackson topped the Forbes list in 1989 as the highest-paid. His annual earnings of \$123 m. were the highest for a pop star.

Jatsyayan, Sachidananda Hirnananda (Agyeya) (1911-'87): Hindi writer, journalist. Gyanpith award, '78 (*Kitni Navam Me Kitni Bar*).

Jatsyayana (5th Century A.D.): Sanskrit writer who wrote the famous *Kamasutra* ('Art of Sex').

Velazquez, Dlego (1599-1660): Spanish painter, influenced by Titian. Court painter to Philip IV. One of the greatest painters in history.

Venkataraman, R. (b. 1910): President of India, 1987-92. Vice-President, 1984-87. Was Union Minister (Defence, Finance) before.

Verne, Jules (1825-1905): French writer of science fiction. *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*.

Vespucci, Amerigo (1454-1512): Italian explorer, after whom America is named. Explored Venezuela.

Vicente, Gil (1465-1536): Portuguese playwright, regarded as the founder of Portuguese drama. *The Forge of Love*, *The Pilgrimage of the Aggrieved*.

Vicky (Victor Weisz) (1913-'66): German-born British cartoonist.

Victor Emmanuel II (1820-'78): First king of Italy.

Victoria (1819-1901): Queen of Britain and Empress of India. The monarch with the longest reign in British history (64 years).

Vidyasagar, Ishwar Chandra (1820-1891): Great Indian scholar and reformer. Fought for widow remarriage, higher education for women, and against child marriage.

Vijayan, O.V. (1930-2005): Political cartoonist and writer in Malayalam.

Khasakinte Ithihasam. Padma Bhushan.
Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro) (70-19 B.C.): Roman epic poet. *The Aeneid*.
Visvesaraya, Mokshagundam (1861-1962): Engineer, educationist and statesman. Was Dewan of Mysore. Bharat Ratna.

Vivekananda, Swami (1863-1902):



Swami Vivekananda

A saint philosopher who made India's greatness known to the world. Disciple of Rama-krishna Paramahansa, saint (1836-86) who worked for the uplift of Hindu society. Established Sri Ramakrishna Mission.

Voltaire (the assumed name of Francis Marie Arouet) (1694-1778): French philosopher and writer; prepared the way for the French Revolution. *Candide*.

Wadia, Ardaseer Cursetjee (1808-'77): Mechanical and marine engineer, the first Indian Fellow of the Royal Society, London, at the age of 33.

Wagner, Richard (1813-'83): German composer, who made revolutionary changes in the structure of opera.

Walcott, Derek (b. 1930): West Indian poet and dramatist. *Omeros*. Nobel (1992).

Waldhelm, Kurt (b. 1918): Austrian diplomat, President of Austria, 1986. Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1972-81.

Walesa, Lech (b. 1943): Polish trade union leader who became the country's President (1990). An electrician at the

Minkowski Space

A four-dimensional space was the idea of German mathematician Hermann Minkowski. 'Minkowski space' combined the three dimensions of physical space with that of time, and laid the mathematical foundation of Einstein's general theory of relativity.

Yeltsin, Boris (1931-2007): President of Russia (1991-99). The first leader of Russia ever to be chosen by popular vote. Served over the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Yew, Lee Kuan (b.1923): Singaporean statesman. Became the first PM of Singapore in 1959 and held the post for 31 years. Dominated the affairs of the region for three decades.

Young, Thomas (1773-1829): English physicist who uncovered some of the mysteries of light and colour. He spoke nine languages, including Latin, by the age of 16.

Yunus, Mohammed (b. 1940): Bangladesh's micro-credit leader. Among the 30 all time top entrepreneurs identified by 'Business Week'. Nobel Prize.

Zedong, Mao (1893-1976): Architect of the Chinese Revolution and founder of the People's Republic of China. Experiments: 'Communes', the 'great leap forward' and the 'cultural revolution' ('65-'69).

Zeppelin, Ferdinand (1838-1917): German inventor who built the first rigid frame motor-driven airship (1900); subsequent models named after him.

Zhou En-lai (1898-1976): Chinese revolutionary statesman. Formed close partnership with Mao Zedong. Prime Minister of the new China in 1949.

Zidane, Zinedine (b.1972): One of



Muhammed Yunus

Info for a President and Prime Minister

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is the first world leader to achieve an advanced rank in martial arts. He holds sixth degree black belt in judo and is a one-time champion of his home city of St. Petersburg.

Putin co-authored a judo manual in 2000. He began studying judo at age 13 and has been perfecting his skills ever since. As the country's President, he once said that judo helped him master the art of being President. 'Judo allows compromises and retreats, but only when they help attain victory'.

The name 'judo' means 'gentle way', and that is its fundamental philosophy.

the greatest footballers of his generation. French Captain. With a transfer fee of \$66 m. in 2001, most expensive football player in history. In 2006 World Cup, he won the Golden Ball. Retired in 2006.

Zola, Emile (1840-1902): French novelist. *L'Assommoir*, *Nana*, *Germinal*.

Zoroaster (Zarathustra) (6th cent B.C.): Persian founder of the Parsee religion. He was a monotheist, and saw the world as a struggle between good and evil.

Zwingli, Ulrich (1484-1531): Swiss religious (Protestant) reformer.

Zworykin, Vladimir (1889-1982): Russian inventor of the iconoscope, first electronic-scanning television camera.

Nellie Bly's Adventure

American journalist Nellie Bly (real name : Elizabeth Cochrane) was inspired by Verne's novel 'Around the World in 80 Days' and set out in 1889 and completed the-world trip in record time: 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds.

Arjuna Award, Padma Shri.

Wilson, Sir Harold (1916-'95): British statesman, PM 1964-'66, 1966-'70, 1974-'76.

Wilson, Woodrow (1856-1924): U.S. President, 1913-'21

Windsor, Duke of (Formerly Edward VIII) (1894-1972): English monarch who abdicated to marry the American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

Winfrey, Oprah (b.1954): American TV talkshow host. First woman to top the Forbes magazine list of entertainment millionaires.

Wodehouse, Pelham Grenville (1881-1975): English comic novelist; creator of the *immortal butler, Jeeves*.

Wolfowitz, Paul (b. 1943): President of World Bank

Wolsey, Cardinal Thomas (1475-1530): Cardinal and Lord Chancellor of England. In virtual control of all state business, his ambitions led to his doom. Failing to get King Henry VIII a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, he was charged with high treason.

Wonder, Stevie (b. 1950): American singer. A precocious child, despite being blind from birth. First album at age 12. *Talking Book, Hotter than July*.

Woods, Tiger (b.1975): Golfer, youngest ever to win the sport's career Grand Slam (all 4 majors), at age 24, when he won the British Open, 2000

Woolf, Virginia (1882-1941): Eng-



Virginia Woolf

lish writer who developed the stream-of-consciousness technique. To the *Lighthouse*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, *The Waves*, *Orlando*.

Wordsworth, William (1770-1850): English Romantic poet, interpreter of nature in her many moods. Poet Laureate, 1843. *The Prelude*, *Sonnets*.

Wouke, Herman (b.1915): US novelist. *The Caine Mutiny*. Pulitzer prize.

Woulfe, Peter (1727-1803): British chemist after whom glass laboratory bottle with two or more necks is known.

Wright, Frank Lloyd (1869-1959): American architect who gained fame for building the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo that withstood the 1923 earthquake.

Wright, Orville (1871-1948) and his brother Wilbur (1867-1912): American inventors and pioneers in aviation. The two brothers were the first men to design and fly a powered, man-carrying airplane.

Xerxes (c.519-465 B.C.): King of Persia, 485 to 465 B.C.; a great commander; assassinated.

Xiaoping, Deng (1904-'97): Chinese politician rehabilitated in 1977. The country's senior leader until death.

Yadav, Santosh (b. 1969): An Indo-Tibetan Border Police officer, the only woman in the world to have climbed the peak twice ('92-'93).

Yashpal, Prof. (b. 1926): Scientist, UGC Chairman, missionary of scientific thinking. His TV show 'Turning Point' was very popular.

Yeats, William Butler (1865-1939): Irish lyric poet and playwright. *The Hour Glass*, *Deidre*, *The Second Coming*.

Majrooh Sultanpuri

Majrooh Sultanpuri (Asrar Hasan Khan), poet and the most versatile songwriter of Indian cinema started his career as a Unani hakim. His first song was recorded under the baton of Naushad, and in the voice of K.L. Saigal in 1945. He wrote 8,000 songs for 330 films.

Aqaba (Jordan): Seaport, captured from Turks in 1917 by T.E. Lawrence. Gulf of Aqaba had important role in Arab-Israeli wars.

Agadir (Morocco): Port. Town was destroyed in a major 1960 earthquake. The Portuguese named it Santa Cruz (1505-41).

Andes (S. America): Longest mountain range in the world.

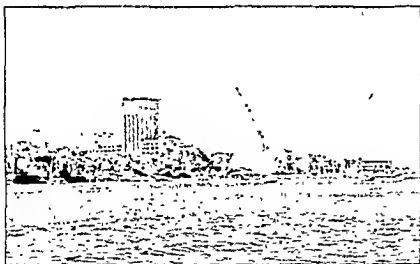
Arlington (USA): Location of the Pentagon. National Cemetery built in 1864, where prominent Americans have been buried.

Ashanti (Ghana): A kingdom of the Ashanti people annexed to the British colony of Gold Coast (Ghana) in 1901. Now a province with capital at Kumasi.

Astana (Kazakhstan): Capital of Kazakhstan. Its name was Akmola until 1961 and from 1994 to '98. From 1961 to 1994 it was Tselinograd. Until 1998 the name was Alma Ata. Since 1998, present name.

Asti (Italy): Town known for its sparkling white wine, Asti Spumante.

Aswan (Egypt): City on the bank of the



Aswan

Nile. Aswan High Dam was built (1960-1970) with Soviet aid.

Atacama Desert (Chile): The most

arid region in the world. Stretches about 1000 km.

Atlanta (USA): Capital of Georgia. Founded in 1837, originally called Terminus, Marthasville in 1845, and Atlanta in 1947. Headquarters of Coca Cola. Hosted 1996 summer Olympic Games.

Auschwitz (Poland): Notorious as Nazi Germany's largest concentration camp and extermination camp. Between 1 m. and 2.5 m. people are believed to have died here.

Axum or Aksum (Ethiopia): Centre of N.Ethiopian empire, 1st-8th c. Kings converted to Christianity in 4th c. It is believed that the Arc of the Covenant was brought here from Jerusalem and placed in church of St. Mary of Zion where the emperors of Ethiopia were crowned.

Babylon (Iraq): It was the capital of the Babylonian empire on the Euphrates River, south of Baghdad (modern Iraq). Greatest ruler was Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.). Hanging Gardens were one of the Seven Wonders. Babylon fell in 538 B.C.

Baikonour (Kazakhstan): India's first cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma was launched from this cosmodrome in 1984. Also launched IRI-IA (1988) and IRS-IC (1995).

Balaklava (Russia): Known for the the British base at Balaklava and the Battle of Balaklava in the early stages of the Crimean War, between Britain and Russia.

Bali (Indonesia): Mountainous island. Stronghold of Hinduism.

Balkans (SE Europe): This area consists of Greece, Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria, part of Romania and the European part of Turkey. ~~Composed of~~

Frontline states

Seven states bordering South Africa defined by their position on the 1948 border which prevailed in South Africa. These states were Angola, E. Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Historical Places

Acropolis (Ancient Greece): The citadel of ancient Athens, which contained the Parthenon, the Erechtheum, etc.

Actium (Ancient Greece): Known for the Battle of Actium, which established the victory of Octavian over Antony and Cleopatra (31 BC).

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia): Capital and biggest city. Name means 'New Flower'.



Addis Ababa

Hq. of African Union, and UN Economic Commission for Africa. Emperor Haile Selassie I ruled the country for about 50 years until deposed in 1974.

Al Aqsa Mosque (Jerusalem): Islam's third holiest place, after Mecca and Medina.

Alaska (USA): Bought by USA from Russia in 1867.

Albany (USA): Capital of N. York state. Albany Congress (1754) was the US colonial gathering of delegates at which Benjamin Franklin proposed a plan of union for the separate British colonies.

Alexandria (Egypt): City founded by Alexander the Great.

Altamira (Spain): Site of palaeolithic cave paintings and engravings.

Amsterdam (The Netherlands): Capital. Major European port.

Anatolia (another name for Asia Minor): Turkey's Asian region that was part of the Ottoman Empire until Republic of Turkey came into existence.

Anchorage (USA): Alaskan city founded in 1915 as the headquarters for the building of the Alaska railway.

Angkor (Cambodia): It is the ancient Khmer capital and the temple complex. The greatest structure is Angkor Wat. The complex was destroyed by Thai invaders.

Annapolis (USA): Capital of Maryland; the site of the signing of the peace treaty ending American Revolution. US Naval Academy here.

Antananarivo (Madagascar): Capital. Formerly Tananarive. Founded early 17th c. as a walled citadel.

Antioch (Turkey): New name is Antakya. City founded in 300 BC by Seleucus I. Antioch was 'the queen of the east'.

Antwerp (Belgium): Prominent trade centre in 15th century. Site of Europe's first stock exchange (1460). Cathedral of Notre Dame (14th century). Bombed in WWII. Diamond cutting is well developed.

Apia (Western Samoa): Capital. Vailima, the former home of R.L. Stevenson, happens to be the residence of the head of state.

Boston Tea Party

Raid by American colonists on three British ships in Boston Harbour, Massachusetts. It was on Dec. 16, 1773 that the raiders disguised as Indians emptied 342 chests of tea into the harbour. The action was in protest against taxes imposed by the British Parliament on several items including tea imported to America.

empire (1871). In 1948 Soviet-controlled East Berlin and West Berlin (controlled by US, UK, France) were born. The airlift of supplies by British and American aircraft, following WWII, after Soviet attempts to isolate the city from the West is known as Berlin Airlift. The blockade was lifted in 1949. Berlin Wall was built by East German government (1961) to seal off E. Berlin from W. Berlin to prevent illegal migration. Wall was opened in 1989.

Bermuda (West Atlantic): A British overseas territory. Old name: Somers Islands. Bermuda, the Greater Antilles and the US coast make 'Bermuda Triangle', an area where aircraft are reported to have vanished mysteriously.

Bethlehem (now under Palestine): Birthplace of Jesus Christ. The early home of King David. Annexed by Jordan in 1950. Later, was part of West Bank. Turned over to Palestine in 1995.

Biafra (Nigeria): Under Col. Ojukwu, the Igbo people of Biafra tried to break away from Nigeria. Civil war of 1967-70.

Bikini (Pacific) Atoll in the Marshall islands. Site of US nuclear tests, and first H-bomb test (1952).

Birmingham (U.K.): Britain's second largest city, developed rapidly in the Industrial Revolution.

Bloomsbury (U.K.): Intellectuals who are known as Bloomsbury Group (early years of 20th century) met here. E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf and J.M. Keynes were members.

Bonn (Germany): Capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990, when the two Germanys were unified. Beethoven was born here.

Borneo (Malay Archipelago): World's third largest island. Thinly populated. Sabah and Sarawak are part of Malaysia, Brunei is independent, Kalimantan state belongs to Indonesia.

Bosnia (E. Europe): The international crisis that led to the outbreak of WWI had its roots here. Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina and trouble began. It has been in the news since 1990 as a scene of ethnic war. Now part of the country Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosporus: The strait joining the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. On its eastern shore is Istanbul.

Boston (USA): This Atlantic seaport, capital of Massachusetts, was focus of pre-Revolution activity (Boston Massacre 1770, Boston Tea Party 1773, etc). Now an important manufacturing, financial and educational centre.

Bougainville (PNG): Volcanic island in southwest Pacific Ocean. Scene of guerrilla warfare since 1980s.

Brasilia (Brazil): Capital, laid out in the shape of an aircraft. Inaugurated in 1960.

Bratislava (Slovakia): Capital. It was the capital of Hungary from 1541 to 1784. In Czechoslovakia, it was the third largest city. Bratislava is on the river Danube. An industrial city.

Bretton Woods (USA): A 1944 international conference here led to the establishment of IMF.

Brindisi (Italy): A central port in the middle ages. A naval base.

Brisbane (Australia): Former penal colony. Town named after the former governor of New South Wales. The country's third largest city.

Bikini

A small and isolated atoll in the northwestern Marshall Islands. Bikini became famous after the second world war for tests by US. The first hydrogen bomb was also tested here.

between European powers for control of the Balkans resulted in WWI. All States (except Greece) became communist after WWII. The 1990s saw turmoil in the region with the breakup of Yugoslavia, Bosnian civil war and Kosovo conflict.

Bandung (Indonesia): The Non-aligned Movement had its beginning in the Bandung Conference, 1955 with 29 countries representing more than half the world attending.

Barcelona (Spain): Country's second largest city. Venue of Olympics, 1992.

Bastille (France): A symbol of Bourbon despotism, this mediaeval fortress was stormed by a mob in 1789.

Bay of Pigs (SW coast of Cuba): Spanish name: Bahía de Cochinos). About 1500 Cuban exiles tried unsuccessfully to invade the country and overthrow Fidel Castro in Apr. 17, 1961 at this bay.

Beijing (China). Capital. Formerly Peking. Settled since ancient times. Tiananmen Square, world's largest public square is here. Venue of 2008 Summer Olympics.

Beira (Mozambique): Chief port of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Founded 1891. Under Portugal until 1942.

Beirut (Lebanon): Capital. At the foot of Lebanon Mountains. It was the chief banking and cultural centre of the Middle East. Heavily damaged in civil war 1979-90.

Belgrade (E. Europe): Formerly capital of Yugoslavia and of the kingdom of Serbia. An important commercial centre in the Balkans. Suffered under Nazi oc-

cupation ('41 - '44). Kosovo conflict hit Belgrade. Now, capital of Serbia-Montenegro.

Belitung or Billiton (Indonesia): An island in the Java sea, whose tin mines have attracted a large Chinese community.

Belmopan (Belize): Made capital of Belize in 1970, following major hurricane damage to Belize city in 1961.

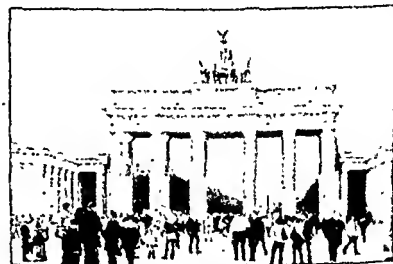
Belorussia (Central Europe): Modern name Belarus. Was part of USSR, now member, CIS.

Benin Kingdom (Africa): A historic kingdom (13th-19th c.). Trade centre for ivory and slaves. Later became part of British Nigeria.

Berchtesgaden (Germany): A resort in the Bavarian Alps, the site of Hitler's fortified mountain retreat, the Berghof.

Bering Sea (Pacific Ocean): Its islands include the Pribilofs, Aleutians, Nunivak, etc. Discovered by Danish explorer Vitus Bering. The Bering Strait is said to have formed a land bridge by which on final inhabitants of N. America arrived from Asia.

Berlin (Germany): Capital. Founded 13th c., capital of Prussia, of German



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin

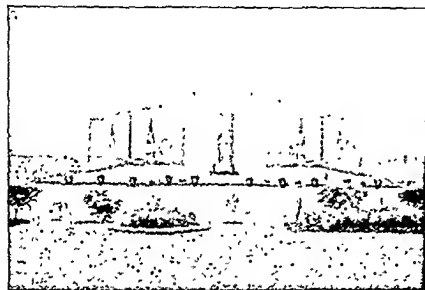
Delphic Oracle

Oracle is the divine answer or prophecy given as a reply to questions at the holy shrines in Greece. Delphi, a town in Greece, is the seat of the famous Apollo temple which is believed to be the centre of earth. The Oracle of Delphi is the most celebrated one in Greek history and mythology. Originally the oracles were given by Goddess Earth but after Apollo took over the temple the oracles were delivered by a priestess.

Dayton (USA): The scene of the Peace Accord of 1995 that ended the Bosnian civil war.

Delphi (Greece): A village famous in ancient Greece as the sanctuary of Apollo and the seat of his oracle.

Dhaka (Bangladesh): Capital. From 1608-1704, capital of Mughal province



Dhaka Assembly

of East Bengal, of British province of East Bengal & Assam, 1905-1912. of East Pakistan, 1947; of Bangladesh since 1971. 'The city of mosques'. Centre of world's biggest jute-growing region.

Diego Garcia (India Ocean): Island, American military airbase. Treaty was signed in 1966 by US and UK for the use of the island.

Doogton (Ohio, USA): Hometown of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Dresden (Germany): A centre of Napoleon's military operations. The beautiful city was damaged in WWII bombing. Known for art galleries and other cultural institutions.

Dumbarton Oaks (US): The first blueprints for setting up UN were formulated here in 1944.

Dumbarton (Scotland): An engineer-

ing and ship building centre.

Dunkirk (France): Seaport. Scene (in 1940) of the evacuation of over 300,000 Allied troops under fire, as France fell to Germany.

East Anglia (UK): A powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdom of 6th century. The region of east England, it has very fertile agricultural land.

Edinburgh (UK): Capital of Scotland. Robert the Bruce was king of Scotland from 1306-29. Home to Adam Smith, David Hume, Robert Burns and Walter Scott. Home to University of Edinburgh. Famous for Edinburgh Festival of music and drama.

Elba (Italy): Island in the Ligurian sea where Napoleon lived after his abdication.

Eiffel Tower (Paris): An iron tower erected for the Paris Exhibition of 1889, on Seine river, Paris, designed by A.G. Eiffel. World's most visited site.

Essen (Germany): On the Ruhr river, it is home to the Krupp steel works, Europe's most extensive iron and steel works. Destroyed in WW II.

Eton (UK): Seat of Britain's most famous public school, Eton College, founded in 1440.

Eureka Stockade (Australia): Scene of an armed clash in 1854 when government was forced to back down, in the face of public opinion following goldminers on whom expensive mining license was imposed.

Evian (France): Venue of the G8 summit, June 2003.

Eyre, Lake (Australia): At 15 m. below sea level, it is the lowest point on the continent.

Hindu Villa in Egypt

The Baron Palace in Cairo is a tourist spot which looks like a typical Hindu temple known as Hindu Villa. The palace hosted King Albert and Queen Elizabeth before WWI. India is to help Egypt in conserving the Palace.

1871. Transport, industrial, shipping, cultural centre. Largest rail terminal in the world. O'Hare is one of the busiest airports. World's first skyscraper was built here in 1885-Sears Tower.

Chittagong (Bangladesh): Seaport. Country's chief port.

Cluny (France): Town where the Cluniac order of Benedictine monks was established in 910.

Cognac (France): Town on river Charente, known for the brandy of the same name produced here.

Colditz (Germany): A castle here was used as a prison camp in WWII, for Allied escapees.

Coldstream (Scotland, UK): Town known for Regiment of Coldstream Guards raised here first (1660) to restore Charles II.

Colorado (USA): Famous for Colorado National monument (1911) which has towering monoliths and canyons.

Colosseum (Rome): Amphitheatre built in AD 70-82 between gladiators and of men with animals.

Columbia (U.S.A): State capital. Burned by Gen. Sherman in 1865.

Communism Peak (Tajikistan) : Mountain in central Asia, known as Mount Garmo until 1933 and Stalin Peak until 1962. it was the highest peak in the former Soviet Union.

Concord (USA): The beginning of American War of Independence was marked by Battle of Concord (1775).

Constantinople (Turkey): Byzantium from 330 to 1930 Capital of Byzantine Empire, the eastern half of the Roman empire. Fell to Ottoman Turks (1453).

Now, Istanbul.

Cook Strait (Pacific Ocean Channel): Separates New Zealand's North and South Islands. Visited by Captain Cook in 1770.

Copperbelt (Africa): A region in central Africa, with the largest copper deposits in Africa.

Coral Sea (or Solomon Sea): It has many coral islands. Was scene of US victory over Japanese, 1942.

Cordoba (Spain): City which was the capital of Moorish Spain in 8th c. Great Mosque (990).

Corfu (Greece): Island in the Ionian Sea. British protectorate from 1815 to 1864.

Corinth (Greece): A powerful city of ancient Greece. Destroyed by Romans 146 B.C., rebuilt by Caesar, 44 BC.

Corpus Christi (USA): A port, on Corpus Christi Bay, channel access to Gulf of Mexico.

Corsica (France): Largest island of France. Napoleon Bonaparte was born here.

Cotopaxi (Ecuador): Highest active volcano in the world.

Crete (Greece): Largest Greek island. Settled from 6000 BC. Minoan civilization, 2000 BC.

Crimea (Ukraine): Peninsula in South Ukraine, now an autonomous republic of Ukraine. Crimean War (1853-56) fought by Britain, France and Ottoman Turks against Russia.

Darwin (Australia): Port, Allied hq in WWII. Bombed by Japan in 1942. A 1974 cyclone destroyed the city.

Davos (Switzerland): A resort, the venue of World Economic Forum.

The Clay Soldiers

An army of more than 7000 life-size clay soldiers formed a burial guard for Shih Huang Ti, the first emperor of China who died in 210 B.C. The clay men carried real weapons. When found in 1974, a sword was still sharp enough to split a hair.

Ggantija (Malta): Ggantija Temples (built 3600-3300 BC) are a Copper Age complex on island Gozo (the 'Isle of Calypso')

Gibraltar (UK): British Crown Colony. Smallest (6.5 sq.km) colony in the world. Played important role in Allied naval operations in WWI & WWII. Gibraltar Rock's height 426 m.

Gobi (Central Asia): Desert of 1,295,000 sq.km. extending across China and Mongolia.

Golan Heights (Syria-Israel): This strategically important area of Syria was occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Granada (Spain): City founded by the Moors the 8th century. Capital of the Kingdom of Granada, 1238. Tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella can be seen.

Golconda (A.P): Capital of the Qutb Shahi Sultans of 16th c. Rich in historical monuments including the Golconda Fort.

Great Rift Valley : East African Rift System, extending from Jordan to Mozambique.

Great Slave Lake (Canada): Lake named for the slave Indians, drained by the Mackenzie River.

Great Smoky Mountains (USA): Part of the Appalachian Mountains. 2025m.

Greenwich (UK): The village near London. Greenwich Mean Time, the UK standard time, (GMT) is based on local time of the meridian passing through Greenwich.

Hamburg (Germany): Germany's largest port and foremost industrial city. It was a member of the German Confederation as a free city in 1815. Allied bombing

destroyed the city in WWII, was rebuilt. Home to the Hamburg Opera.

Harappa (Pakistan): The site of a great city of the Indus Valley civilization. Cemeteries and brick buildings of Harappa were excavated in 1920s and 1946.

Harrow (London) Site of world famous private preparatory school for boys founded 1571.

Harvard (USA): Harvard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts is the earliest (1636) US college. Alumnus of seven American Presidents.

Helligendamm (Germany): Resort town which hosted G-8 summit, 2007.

Hiroshima (Japan): City destroyed on



Hiroshima Memorial

Aug. 6, 1945 by the first atomic bomb dropped by USA.

Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam): New name of Saigon. Former Capital of French Indo-China. Hq of US military operations in Vietnam War. Captured by N. Vietnamese troops and renamed.

Holstein : A region in Germany. A breed of large, black-and-white dairy cattle of this name.

Huntingdon (UK): Birthplace of Oliver Cromwell.

A Unique City

Istanbul in Turkey is unique in that it is partly in Europe and partly in Asia. It is also called Stamboul. Ancient buildings include the 6th century Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Topkapi Palace, the former sultans' harem.

Falkland Islands (UK): British crown colony in S. Atlantic Ocean. To Argentina, they are 'Malvinas'. War between Argentina and Britain over the Islands 1982.

Fatima (Portugal): Small village where three shepherds children claimed to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary in 1917.

Finland (Northern Europe): A wealthy country. Thousands of lakes. Some think human habitation here dates back 100,000 years.

Flanders (Belgium-France): The region frequently fought over by France, Spain and Austria is divided between Belgium and France. Scene of big trench warfare in WW I.

Florence (Italy): Cultural, intellectual centre of Italy, the rule of the Medice family being the most glorious time. Leading centre of the Renaissance. Capital of the Kingdom of Italy, 1865-71. The School of Florence includes Leonardo da Vinci, Michaelangelo and Raphael.

Florida (USA): It forms a long peninsula with thousands of lakes and many rivers. Belonged to the Spanish. America purchased it in 1819. Everglades, Florida Keys, Disney World, Miami, etc are here.

Forbidden City (China): The public museums in Beijing, were in the past imperial palaces where no commoner or foreigner could enter without special permission. The complex had some 9000 rooms.

Formosa (Taiwan's former name, Republic of China): Island in the Pacific. The Portuguese named it Formosa ("beautiful"), then was under the Dutch, and then under the Ming dynasty of China. Chiang

Kaishek fled to Taiwan. Economic growth was spectacular from the 1950s.

Freetown (Sierra Leone) Capital. Founded in 1790s as a foundation for freed slaves. From 1808 to 1874, it was capital of British West Africa.

Gallipoli (Turkey): Post on the European side of the Dardanelles; the first European city to be conquered by Ottoman Turks (1354). Famous for the Allied operation against Turks in WW I. After eight months of inconclusive fighting and deaths of 145,000 men, the Allies withdrew.

Gaul (France). Transalpine Gaul, the region that developed into the mediaeval kingdom of France.

Gauteng (S. Africa). Province, whose capital is Johannesburg. Pretoria is S. Africa's administrative capital.

Gaza Strip: Area (146 sq. mile) captured by Israel from Egypt, 1967. Mostly statelss Palestinians live there in refugee camps.

Gdansk (Poland). Formerly Danzig. Industrial port. 1980 saw labour unrest in the Lenin Shipyard, in support of 'Solidarity'. Lech Walesa, an electrician here, rose to become President of Poland.

Gedrosia (Pakistan): Historical region west of the Indus River, in what is now the Baluchistan region of Pakistan.

Genoa (Italy): The country's largest seaport. Birthplace of Columbus.

Gettysburg (USA): Famous for Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (1863) at the dedication of a war cemetery in Pennsylvania, where the Battle of Gettysburg was fought (1863) in the American Civil War.

Up in the World So High

Wenchuan in China is the highest city in the world. It is 5099 m. high, that is more than half the height of Everest. Potosi (3976 m.), Oruro (3702 m.) and La Paz are Bolivian cities. Peru has two high cities: Huancayo (3249 m.) and Cuzco (3399 m.)

by Serbs. NATO's air strikes (1999) hit Kosovo badly.

Krakow or Cracow (Poland): Poland's third largest city. Pope John Paul II was born here.

Kremlin (Russia): The residence of tsars until 1712, political and administrative headquarters of USSR in 1918.

Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia): Capital. Petronas Twin Towers, until recently world's tallest building are here.

Kurdistan (Iran): Inhabited by Kurds, who also live in Iraq, Turkey and Syria. 20 m. in number, the world's largest ethnic group without its own state.

Kuril Islands (Russia): Chain of 30 large and 26 smaller islands in Sakhalin region. In 1875 Russia gave the islands to Japan in exchange for full control of Sakhalin island. Ceded to USSR, after WWII.

La Paz (Bolivia): The highest capital in the world (3631 m.).

Lapland (Arctic region of Europe): Extends over Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Kola peninsula.

Lausanne (Switzerland): On the northern shore of Lake Geneva. Tourist resort, convention centre. International Olympic Committee hq.

Leeds (UK): This West Yorkshire city was famous in 18th c. for its textile manufacturing. Industrial, cultural centre. Leeds Music Festival, International Pianoforte Competition, etc.

Leningrad (Russia): Founded by Peter the Great in 1703. Called St. Petersburg, it was the capital of Russia for 200 years until 1918. For some time it was known as Petrograd. Russia's second largest city.

The Hermitage Museum is here.

Leshan (China): World's tallest Buddha statue (71 metres) is here. It has a unique 24-hour 'electronic bodyguard'.

Lhasa (Tibet): At 3684 m., it was the highest capital in the world before domination of Tibet by China.

Libreville (Gabon): Capital. The name was given in 1848 after freed slaves were settled there.

Liechtenstein (Central Europe): A small principality of 157 sq.km, with very high per capita income

Little Rock (USA): Capital of Arkansas. US Supreme Court enforced a ruling against racial discrimination in schools in 1957.

Liverpool (UK): Sixth largest city in England and the principal Atlantic port. The Beatles belonged to Liverpool.

Locarno (Switzerland): Locarno Pact of 1925, resolving the status of the Rhineland and guaranteeing French-German and Belgian-German borders.

London (UK): Capital. A major trade, financial, cultural, political centre. Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London, Big Ben, Hyde Park, St. Paul's, British Museum, Downing Street, etc are landmarks.

Lopburi: East of Bangkok, famous for the thousands of monkeys that live with human beings in the town.

Lord's (London, UK) Cricket ground; hq of M.C.C.

Lusatia (Germany): The home of the Sorbs, an ancient Slav people.

Maastricht (Netherlands): European Union conference of 1991 was held in this city. Maastricht Treaty was the agree-

16,000 Ships through Aden

As many as 16,000 ships sail through the Gulf of Aden each year, according to the International Maritime Bureau. It is feared that the increase in piracy could cut off global sea routes through the Suez Canal.

Ibadan (Nigeria): City founded in 1330s. Country's intellectual centre.

Iona(UK): A remote island off Mull in Scotland, the site of a monastery set up AD 563.

Islamabad (Pakistan): Capital since 1967. A new city.

Jakarta (Indonesia): Capital. Formerly Batavia. The Dutch founded it in 1619. Important centre of the Dutch East India Company.

Jerusalem (Israel): A holy city of Christians, Jews and Muslims. Capital (declared 1950, lacks international recognition). Capital of Palestine 1922-48. Divided between Israel and Jordan, 1949.

Kampala (Uganda): Capital since 1962. It is on Lake Victoria. Founded by the British near Mengo, the seat of the King of Buganda.

Kampuchea (or Cambodia): Kingdom in S-E Asia. Pol Pot's regime saw deaths of about 3 m. people (1975-8).

Kandy (Sri Lanka): City. Royal city until 1815. Important Buddhist Sinhalese culture centre. 'Temple of the Tooth' is here. Known as 'City of the Five Hills'

Karachi(Pakistan): Port, largest city in the country. First capital of Pakistan (1947).

Katanga (Congo): The province (known as Shaba) attempted to secede under Moise Tshombe, 1960.

Kawasaki (Japan): Port city in Honshu.

Khasi (China): Centre of trade with CIS republics and West Africa.

Khartoum (Sudan): Sudanese capital. In 1885 the Mahdi defeated the British here. It is the economic link between the

Arab countries and African countries.

Khmer (SE Asia): An empire founded in 6th century. Its capital from 802 was Angkor Thom. The empire fell in 15th.

Kiritmati (Kiribati): Christmas Island. Largest atoll in the world. nuclear testing site in '50s. Britain annexed it.

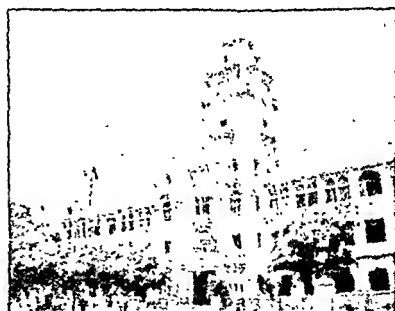
Kisangani (Zaire): Founded as Stanleyville, renamed in 1966. A rebel government was established briefly during civil war (1960-64).

Kobe (Japan): Japan's commercial port. Badly damaged by the 1995 earthquake. Kobe has 15 universities.

Kola Peninsula (Russia): A promontory between the Barents Sea and the White Sea. It is mostly granite, and is mined for apatite and nephelinite.

Konya (Turkey): It was capital of sultanate of Konium or Rum under Seljuk Turks (11th c.).

Kosovo (Serbia): The autonomous province of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia that declared independence in 1990. Years of unrest and violence followed. Ethnic Albanians were repressed



Municipal Office, Karachi

Most Populous Cities

Tokyo: 34.00 m. Mexico City: 22.80 m, Seoul: 22.30 m, New York: 21.90 m, Sao Paulo: 20.20 m, Mumbai: 19.85 m, Delhi: 19.70 m., Shanghai: 18.15 m., Los Angeles: 18.00 m, Osaka : 16.80 m., Jakarta : 16.55 m., Kolkata : 15.65 m.

Montego Bay (Jamaica): Port and tourist capital of the country. Locally called Mobay.

Monte San Giorgio (Switzerland): A pyramid-shaped, wooded mountain regarded as the best fossil record of marine life.

Montserrat (UK): Territory in the Caribbean. A 1997 volcanic eruption made two-thirds of the island uninhabitable.

Montreal (Canada): Second largest French-speaking city in the world. Venue of 1976 Olympics. Trade, finance centre.

Montreux (Switzerland): The 13th century chateau de Chillon. Figures in Byron's poem Prisoner of Chillon. Annual television festival awards the Golden Rose of Montreux.

Mount Ararat (Turkey): Extinct volcanic peak. Noah's Ark is said to have come to rest here.

Mount Isa (Australia): World's largest city in area-41, 225 sq.km.

Mount Kailas (Tibet): Also known as Mount Meru. The world's highest altitude pilgrimage ends here.

Mount Li (China): A life-size army of about 7500 painted terracotta figures deployed in military formation underground was discovered here in 1974. First Chinese Emperor Qin Shihuangdi buried here.

Munich (Germany): Capital of Bavaria. Swedes occupied it in 1632 and the French in 1800. In 1920s, it was the centre of the Nazi Party. Munich Putsch (Beer hall Putsch) was an attempted coup in 1923 by Hitler to overthrow the republican government. Munich Agreement of 1938 was a pact signed by Britain, France, Italy



Nymphenburg Castle, Munich

and Germany to settle the German claims on Czechoslovakia.

Murmansk (Russia): The only major ice-free port in the former USSR.

Mycenae : Mycenaen civilization was a brilliant Bronze Age culture which flourished in Greece and the Aegean in 2nd millennium.

Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan): Azerbaijan's autonomous region whose population is about 80% Armenian. Armenian claims to the area in 1988 led to riots. Fighting broke out in 1991. Ceasefire in 1994 but tension continues.

Namur (Belgium): The city's strategic position at the confluence of two rivers caused fighting over it many times. Damaged in both World Wars.

Nancy (France): Former seat of the Dukes of Lorraine. France got it in 1766.

Naples (Italy): Seaport, industrial, cultural centre. In 6th BC, it was founded by Greeks. Capital of the Kingdom of Naples, 1270-1860.

Nauru (Western Pacific): World's smallest republic, area 21 sq.km. Independent in 1968. Known for phosphate deposits.

Nepal (Asia): Until 2006, the only of-

The Most Densely Populated Macau

Macau is a Special Administrative Region of China. Its density of population is incredible : 18, 433 per sq. km., obviously the highest in the world.

ment on Europe's political, economic and monetary union.

Macedon (SE Europe): Ancient country (roughly the modern Macedonia). City of Thessaloniki founded by king Philip II (420 B C), father of Alexander the Great.

Machu Picchu (Peru): Ruined Inca city, discovered in 1911. A world heritage site.

Madagascar (Indian Ocean): World's fourth largest island, settled by Indonesians in 1st c. AD.

Madrid (Spain): Capital. Highest capital city in Europe (altitude 655 m).

Malaga (Spain): Port. Ancient Malaca. Founded by Phoenicians in 12th c.B.C. Birthplace of Picasso.

Mali (Africa): A republic in West Africa. A mediaeval state which reached its peak in 14th c. Ruled by France 1881-95, territory of French Sudan until 1959.

Manchuria (China): Sparsely populated mountainous area. The last Chinese emperors were Manchus. Under Russian control for long.

Maramba (Zambia): Capital of N. Rhodesia 1911-1935. City first named 'Livingstone' after the first explorer David Livingstone.

Marrakesh (Morocco): One of Morocco's four imperial cities (founded 1062). Former capital. Islamic, commercial, tourist centre.

Masada (Israel): The desert fortress famous as the scene of a mass suicide 2,000 years ago.

Mashhad (Iran): The holy city that attracts the most number of pilgrims (over 20 m.) a year who come to the holy shrine

of the 8th Shiite Imam.

Matterhorn (Switzerland): 4477 m. high mountain in the Pennine Alps on Swiss/Italian border. Mont Cerevin in French and Monte Cervino in Italian.

Medina (Saudi Arabia): Islamic holy city that contains the tomb of Prophet Mohammed.

Mekong Delta (S.E. Asia): Mekong river's lower course has 1/3 of the population of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. In 1957, UN's Mekong River Development Project began.

Memphis (USA): In Tennessee. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated here (1968).

Mexico City (Mexico): Capital. Largest city in the world. Olympic Games (1968). About 20,000 killed in an earthquake (1985).

Mohanjo-Daro (Pakistan): A great site of the Indus valley civilization. The excavation in 1920s brought to light extensive brick-built remains.

Mombasa (Kenya): Chief port, industrial centre. It was the capital of East Africa Protectorate, 1888-1907. A British naval base in WWII.

Monaco (France-Italy border): Independent principality, 1.95 sq.km. A luxurious resort known for Monte Carlo gambling centre, car races and beaches.

Mont Blanc (French-Italian border): Highest mountain in the Alps. There is a 12 km road tunnel connecting the two countries.

Monte Cristo (Italy): Islet in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Association with the Dumas novel The Count of Monte Cristo.

The Deepest Indian Ocean Port

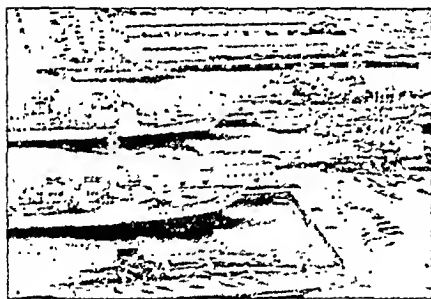
The Ehoala port, the new port in the Madagascar coastal town of Fort Dauphin, being built to export ilmenite from the largest ilmenite mine in the world being constructed by the Anglo-Australian Rio Tinto, will be the deepest port of the Indian Ocean.

Panama (Central America): Occupies the Isthmus of Panama, the strip of land that links North and South America. USA built the Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In 1903 US got sovereignty over the Panama Canal Zone. Political turbulence tormented Panama for long. USA interfered on several occasions.

Paris (France): Capital. Treaty of Paris (1761-3) ended Seven Years' War. Paris Peace Conference held after WWI. Hq. of UNESCO, etc. A main world tourist centre, centre of high fashion and luxury goods. Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Elysee Palace, Paris University (1170) etc.

Patmos (Greece): Island. Apostle St. John lived here for two years.

Pearl Harbour (USA): Naval base was



Pearl Harbour

bombed by Japan on Dec. 7, 1941. This brought USA into WW II.

Pedra Furada (Brazil): Rock shelter, believed to be the earliest human settlement in the Americas.

Penang (Malaysia): First British settlement in Malaya. Capital Pinang was formerly George Town.

Pentagon (USA): A huge five-sided building in Arlington. Hq. of US Defence

Dept. It was world's largest office building (34 acres) when completed. On Sept. 11, 2001 part of the building was destroyed by terrorists who crashed an aircraft into Pentagon.

Perak (Malaysia): One of the wealthiest states, after tin was discovered in the 1840s.

Pergamum (Asia Minor): Ancient city, was capital of the Attalids.

Persepolis (Iran): Palaces and graves of the Achaemenid rulers of Persia are here in the mountains. Sacked by Alexander the Great (331 BC).

Peter and Paul Fortress (Russia): A stronghold founded by Peter the Great (1703) on an island. St. Petersburg sprang up around it. A museum.

Piltdown (UK): Fossilised skull fragments 'discovered' in 1912 in Piltdown, Sussex, were believed to be the earliest human remains found in Europe. 'The Piltdown Man' was a hoax, it was known 40 years later.

Pitcairn Island (S. Pacific): One of a small group of islands, UK overseas territory. Area is 4.6 sq. km. and population only 48.

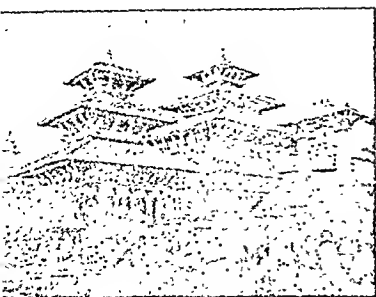
Pittsburgh (USA): The British took Fort Duquesne (built by the French) and renamed it Fort Pitt (1758). Third largest US corporate hq.

Plymouth (USA): Site of the first permanent European settlement in New England founded by the pilgrims in 1620. A tourist destination.

Polish Corridor (Poland): A belt of land that separated Prussia from the rest of Germany and was granted to Poland in the Treaty of Versailles (1919). Annexed by Germany (1939), returned to Poland (1945).

Macau for Gaming

Gaming accounts for around one-third of total GDP of Macau, part of People's Republic of China since 1999. Tourism is another pillar that supports the economy. There are no



Nepal

ical Hindu kingdom in the world.

New York City (USA): The country's largest city. The Dutch who colonised it called it New Amsterdam (1625). In 1644, Britain captured it and named it New York after the king's brother, the Duke of York. Erie Canal opened in 1825, paving the way for rapid growth. George Washington was inaugurated here as the first President. UN is located here. World Trade Centre, until Sept. 2001. Largest American port.

Niagara (USA) : known for Niagara Falls on the US-Canada border

Nineveh (Assyria): Important city of Assyria in Upper Mesopotamia. In the area around the town of Asur on the Tigris, a vast empire was built up which was at its height in 9th-8th c.BC.

Normandy (France): Seat of William who invaded England in 1066. French recovered it in 1204. Site of the Normandy Campaign (June 6, 1944), the allied invasion of German-occupied France- the largest amphibious operation in history.

Novogorod (Russia): One of the oldest Russian cities. On a major trade route of eastern Europe, it became commercially prosperous in the Middle Ages.

Nunavut (Canada): Eskimo territory. Created in 1999 after negotiations with Inuit leaders.

Nuremberg (Germany): The trials of Nazi criminals after WWII (Nuremberg Trials) took place in this city, which was heavily bombed in the war.

Nyasa Lake or Malawi Lake (Africa): Africa's third largest. Known as Calendar Lake, because it is 365 miles long and 52 across at its widest point.

Oberammergau (Germany): Passion play is performed here every ten years following a vow made by the villagers when they were saved from the plague in 1633.

Odessa (Ukraine): Black Sea port. Centre of the battleship 'Potemkin' mutiny in the Revolution of 1905.

Okinawa (Japan): Island taken by USA in WW II, returned to Japan, 1972.

Oklahoma City (USA): Terrorists bombed a government office building in 1994, killing 168 people.

Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania): Rich archaeological site, where fossils and paleolithic implements were found. 'Homo habilis' was discovered by the Leakeys. Some 'Homo erectus' remains too found here.

Oxford (UK): City on the Thames. Oxford university, one of the oldest in Europe, dating from the 12th century.

Palermo (Italy): Port, capital of Sicily. Phoenicians founded it in 8th BC.

Palembang (Indonesia): Port. It was capital of a Hindu Sumatran kingdom of 8th c.

Pamplona (Spain): The celebration, running of the bulls held here every year. 200,000 tourists arrived in 2006.

India to Overtake China

It is predicted that by 2035, India will overtake China as the most populated country with a population over 1.46 billion. China's population will begin declining by then.

that ended in the Confederate surrender, 1863.

Victoria Peak (Hong Kong): The principal peak on Hong Kong Island, named after Queen Victoria.

Vienna (Austria): Capital. It was the seat of the Habsburgs (1278-1918) and the residence of the Holy Roman emperors (1558-1806). A cultural centre in 18th and 19th c. with associations with composers like Haydon, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and the Strauss family. Vienna was jointly occupied by the Allied Powers 1945-55. The conference of European powers after the fall of Napoleon in 1814-15 is known as the Congress of Vienna.

Waco (USA): Headquarters of David Koresh's Branch Davidian religious cult. An FBI storming after a 51-day siege killed Koresh and 70 followers, in April 1993.

Wallonia (Belgium): The French-speaking region of southern Belgium.

Wall Street (USA): Street in Manhattan, N.Y. City, where the New York Stock Exchange is located.

Warsaw (Poland): Capital. It was occupied by Germany in both World Wars. 'Warsaw Pact' is the countries that came together in response to the formation of NATO by the Western powers.

Washington D.C. (USA): Capital of USA, on the east bank of the Potomac river covering the District of Columbia.

Waterloo (Belgium): Where the Battle of Waterloo, the final defeat of Napoleon, took place in 1815.

Watergate (Hotel complex in Washington): Known for Watergate affair, the US political scandal that ended in President Nixon's resignation. The attempted

burglary took place in Democratic Party hq. in Watergate building.

West Bank: Palestinian territory west of the River Jordan. Jordan claimed it from 1949 to 1988. Israel has occupied it since 1967. Israeli troops withdrew in 1993.

Westminster Abbey (UK): The burial place of 18 monarchs. Its Poet's corner is here.

White House (USA): Official residence of US President in Washington, D.C.

Windsor Castle (UK): British royal residence in southern England. The complex includes the burial place of 10 monarchs.

Winnipeg (Canada): The major city of the Canadian prairies, it has one of the world's largest wheat markets.

Wittenberg (Germany): Associated with the beginning of the Reformation, 1517. Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the doors of Schlosskirche.

Woomera Maralinga (Australia): Site of a space and rocket test centre.

Worcester (UK): Country town on river Severn which was the site of Cromwell's defeat of Charles II and the Scots in 1651.

Yale (USA): One of the oldest American universities, founded in 1701 as a college. Named in 1716 after Elihu Yale who donated his books to the college. Women's education in Yale is 134 years old.

Yalta (Ukraine): Port on the Black Sea. Crimean resort, the site of Yalta Conference (1945) attended by Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill.

York (UK): A former Anglo-Saxon capital and a Roman military post. Second-highest office of the Church of England is

Where 25 PMs Studied

Oxford University has tutored 25 British Prime Ministers. Cambridge claims Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton as its students. Oxford, the oldest in Britain, had its origins in gatherings of informal groups in 12th century. The first college of Cambridge University, Peterhouse, was founded in 1284.

Pompeii (Italy): Ancient city at the foot of Vesuvius, which erupted in AD 79 covering the city with ashes and pumicestone 6-7m. deep.

Potala Palace, Lhasa Founded in 7th century. Symbol of old Tibet.

Potsdam (Germany): That is where Churchill, Truman and Stalin met for the conference in 1945

Prussia (Germany): The most powerful German state in 19th c. It disappeared when Germany was divided after 1945. Frederick William (the Great Elector) and Frederick William III, King of Prussia (1797-1840) were great personalities.

Pusan (Korea) : Seaport. A UN supply base during Korean war.

Rhodesia (Africa): Modern states Zimbabwe and Zambia constitute the old Rhodesia named after Cecil Rhodes.

Riga (Latvia): Capital, seaport, under Germany in WWII.

Rijeka (Croatia): Croatia's largest port, was naval base of Austro Hungarian empire until 1918. Ceded to Italy in 1924 and to Yugoslavia in 1947.

Ripon (UK): Reckoned to be England's second oldest town.

Roanoke Island (USA): Off the coast of N. Carolina. Site of the first English colonies in North America.

Rome (Italy): Capital. It was the capital of the Roman empire, which extended to continental Europe. Reached the highest point of glory in 1st and 2nd centuries. Then came the Holy Roman Empire. The seat of Papacy. Vatican City is within Rome.

Salzburg (Austria): Birthplace of Mozart.

San Francisco (USA): Californian

city. Formerly Yerba Buena, renamed in 1848. Golden Gate Bridge is one of longest single-span suspension bridges. Terminus of the first transcontinental railway (1869).

Sao Paulo (Brazil): Founded in 1554, city in 1711. Brazilian independence was declared here in 1822 by Emperor Pedro I.

Sapporo (Japan): City, ski resort: Hokkaido University here. Site of 1972 Winter Olympics.

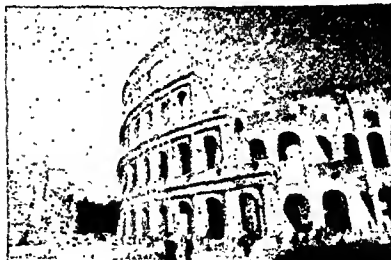
Sarajevo (Yugoslavia): WWI had its beginning here when in 1914 the Archduke of Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by a Serb. It was the focal point of civil war after 1992, with refugees coming into Sarajevo. Hosted 1984 Winter Olympics.

Saskatchewan (Canada): Prairies of this province supply two-thirds of Canada's wheat.

Serengeti (Tanzania): National Park (14,500 sq.km) on the southeast shores of Lake Victoria.

Sevastopol (Ukraine): Seaport city. In Crimean War, Anglo-French forces besieged it (Tolstoy's Sevastopol Sketches).

Shanghai (China): Largest city, seaport, industrial, cultural, educational centre.



Colosseum, Rome

Coastline Length (km)

1) Canada : 265,523; 2) USA : 133,312; 3) Russia : 110,310; 4) Indonesia : 95,181; 5) Chile : 78,563. Others: China: 30,017, Japan: 29,020, UK : 19,717, India : 17,181.

Tewkesbury (UK): It was at the Battle of Tewkesbury in the Wars of the Roses that the Yorkists finally defeated the Lancastrians.

Texas (USA): Major agricultural region and chief oil and natural gas producer. Dallas, a major commercial and trading centre, and Houston a space centre.

The Hague (The Netherlands): Seat of the Dutch government, Hq. of International Court of Justice.

Thermopylae (Greece): A pass in eastern Greece, the scene of Battle of Thermopylae (the Persian Wars), 480 BC - unsuccessful defence by Spartans against the Persians.

Tikal (Guatemala): Ancient Mayan city which was settled in 250 BC. Abandoned by AD 900.

Timbuktu: (Mali) A centre of Muslim learning, 1400-1600 a market for slaves and gold; presently salt is its main trading commodity.

Titicaca (Peru-Bolivia border): World's highest lake at 3810 m.

Truskavets (Ukraine): Resort town renowned for its life-preserving mineral springs.

Ulan Bator (Mongolia): Capital. Centre of trade between China and Japan in 17th c. Outer Mongolia declared independence in 1921. Then Ulan Bator became capital.

Ulster (Ireland): Historical province. Northern Ireland partitioned in 1921, six counties formed Northern Ireland. Three counties became province of Ulster in the Irish Republic.

Uppsala (Sweden): City known as

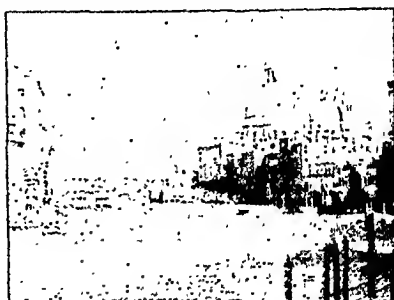
educational centre, with university and cathedral with tombs of king Gustavus Vasa.

Ur (Iraq): Ancient city of Sumer. Jewish patriarch Abraham's home.

Utrecht (The Netherlands): Treaties of Utrecht (1713-14) ended the War of Spanish Succession.

Vancouver Island (Canada): The largest offshore island on the west coast of North America. Vancouver is Canada's third largest city and its chief Pacific port.

Venice (Italy): City, Port. Capital of Venetia and of Venezia. Built on 118 islands, with 170 canals, 400 bridges. It



Venice

was a rich medieval maritime republic founded in 5th c. Venetian Republic in 15th c. Territories lost to Turks, republic fell to Austria. Excellent centre for art and architecture (the Byzantine cathedral of St. Mark).

Versailles (France): Venue of the peace treaty signed in 1919 between Germany and Allied powers. Versailles war.

Vicksburg (USA): On the Mississippi. The site of a siege in American Civil War

The Navsari Memories

Those who love the Tatas' Nano expressed the desire that the first car be delivered from Navsari where Tatas' ancestor Jamshedji Tata was born on Mar. 3, 1839 Tata's original house still exists there, preserved by the Parsi community. The town is home to Bai Hirabai Navsari Charitable Trust, named after Jamshedji's mother.

Books of the Decade

A Glance at Significant Works of Fiction - post 2000

Khyrunnisa.A

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian **Sherman Alexie, 2007**

This is the first book for young adults by Sherman Alexie, who was named one of Granta's Best Young American Writers. Presented as the diary of a young budding cartoonist, this book records the hilarious and often heart breaking experiences of Junior, a Native American boy as he attempts to break free from the kind of life conventional society wishes him to lead. Born hydrocephalic and growing up with 42 teeth, a stammer and a lisp, 14 year old Junior studying in the Spokane Indian Reservation school, leaves it to attend an all white school near Washington and manages against all odds, to make his mark there. With autobiographical overtones, this endearing novel lays bare the hardships of Reservation living.

Atonement **Ian McEwan, 2001**

Included in *Time* magazine's All Time 100 Greatest Novels', and described as "a contemporary classic of mesmerising narrative conviction," British writer Ian McEwan creates a typically British atmosphere in this highly complex and psychologically penetrating work. In four parts and presented from different points of view, *Atonement*, beginning in 1935,

primarily follows the fortunes of Briony Tallis, a thirteen year old hyper imaginative aspiring writer. Briony's false evidence regarding a crime that takes place on her family's estate results in the conviction of an innocent man Robbie. The rest of her life is an atonement of her guilt. Presented as a successful elderly novelist towards the end, there is further proof of her imaginative excesses that bring more twists to the plot.

Brick Lane **Monica Ali, 2003**

The book takes its title from Brick Lane, a street at the heart of London's Bangladeshi community and tells the story of Nazneen, a Bangladeshi teenager married to Chanu, a pompous man who is double her age and works in London. Life in London is stifling for her and worse, she knows to say only 'sorry' and 'thank you' in English. But her inherent Bangladeshi attitudes of obedience and subservience to her husband help her cope until slowly events cause her to change. Letters from her sister Hasina whose life is tragic keep alive her memory of Bangladesh. The novel is a sensitive delineation of the emotional conflicts of an immigrant. The book on publication caused uproar amongst the Bangladeshis in London who attacked it for its negative representation of the community.

A Title with a Difference

The full name of Samuel Johnson's 'Dictionary of English Language' (1775) was 'A Dictionary of the English Language: In Which the Words are Deduced from Their Origin and Illustrated in Their Different Significations by examples from the Best Authors Which Are Prefixed a History of the language, and an English Grammar'.

Archbishop of York.

Yorktown (USA): Scene of last major campaign of American Revolution

Ypres (Belgium): Known for the battles of WWI fought around Ypres, in 1914, in 1915, in 1917. The second saw the first use of poison gas, the third ended in the Passchendaele campaign.

Yucatan (Mexico): Once the centre of the Mayan civilization

Yumen (Tibet): The least populous town. Three residents. The town has a township Government.

Yunnan (China): Conquered by the Mongols in 1253. Became a province of

China in 1659. Plant species and wildlife are rich.

Zagreb (Croatia): Capital. It has a Gothic cathedral and a university founded in 1669.

Zanzibar (Africa): Island in the Indian Ocean, part of Tanzania. Centre for ivory and slave trade in 18th c. The Sultanate of Zanzibar was a British protectorate from 1890. Independent in 1963. Merged with Tanganyika to form Tanzania. World's largest producer of cloves.

Zaragoza (Spain): Scene of resistance against the French in the Peninsular War.

Place Names: New and Old

New Name	Old Name		
ASOM	Assam	KINSHASA	Leopoldville
BANJUL	Bathurst	KOLKATA	Calcutta
BEIJING	Peking	LAOS	Lanxang
BELIZE	British Honduras	LESOTHO	Basutoland
BENIN	Dahomey	MALAWI	Nyasaland
BOTSWANA	Bechuanaland	MALABO	Santa Isabel
BURKINA FASO	Upper Volta	MUMBAI	Bombay
CAMBODIA	Kampuchea; Khmer	MYANMAR	Burma
CHENNAI	Madras	NAMIBIA	South West Africa
CONGO	Zaire	NAURU	Pleasant Island
DJIBOUTI	French Somaliland,	OSLO	Christiania
	French Territory of Afars & Issas	TSHWANE	Pretoria
ETHIOPIA	Abyssinia	PUDUCHERRY	Pondicherry
GDANSK	Danzig	SRI LANKA	Ceylon
GHANA	Gold Coast	St. PETERSBURG	Leningrad
GUYANA	British Guiana	SURINAME	Dutch Guyana
HANOI	Kecho	TAIWAN	Formosa
HARARE	Salisbury	TASMANIA	Van Diemen's Land
HO CHI MINH CITY	Saigon	THAILAND	Siam
INDONESIA	Dutch East Indies (Netherlands East Indies)	TOGO	Togoland
IRAN	Persia	TUVALU	The Ellice Islands
IRAQ	Mesopotamia	VANUATU	The New Hebrides
ISTANBUL	Constantinople, Byzantium	VOLGOGRAD	Tsaritsyn/Stalingrad
JAKARTA	Batavia	YANGON	Rangoon
		ZAMBIA	Northern Rhodesia
		ZIMBABWE	Southern Rhodesia

Neveu, a police cryptologist and Robert Langton, an eminent American symbolist in a partnership to unravel the mystery that leads them to Da Vinci's masterpieces. Secret societies, dangerous quests, adventures and heart stopping chases all add to the excitement.

Family Matters **Rohinton Mistry, 2002**

The ambiguous title is a clue to the meaning of this book, which is as much about matters concerning a family as

it is about delivering the message that family does matter. Set in Mumbai in the 1990s, this is a skilfully told story of a domestic crisis adversely affecting a happy middle class Parsi family. The crisis comes in the guise of



Rohinton Mistry

79-year-old Nariman Vakeel who suffers from Parkinson's disease and his stepchildren can suffer him no more. He goes to stay with his daughter Roxana and her family in her cramped flat with disastrous consequences. The disintegration of family, caring for the old and the disabled, filial ingratitude and betrayal, communalism and corruption are just some of the issues that come under Mistry's deft narrative spot light.

The Gathering **Anne Enright, 2007**

This fine novel about bereavement and grief was described by its Irish author as "the intellectual equivalent of a Hollywood weepie." The title derives from the gathering of the family in Dublin

at the funeral of Liam Hegarty, an alcoholic who drowned himself in the sea. Couched in excellent prose, the book, set in Ireland and England, criss-crosses three generations and is narrated by Veronica, the 39-year-old



Anne Enright

sister of Liam who is closest to him in age and affection. Trying to make sense of his suicide, she delves into the family's troubled history, unearthing long buried family secrets that change her attitude to life. Winner of the 2007 Man Booker Prize, the book evoked a mixed response from critics and readers.

The Inheritance of Loss **Kiran Desai, 2006**

Kiran Desai's beautifully written second novel that fetched her the 2006 Booker Prize takes the reader to Kalimpong, a small town at the foot of the Himalayas, in the 1980s. Jemubhai Popatlal, a retired judge, lives in isolation there with his 16-year-old orphaned granddaughter Sai and his cook whose son Biju lives as an illegal alien in New York. The blossom-



Kiran Desai

ing romance between Sai and her Nepalese tutor Gyan is cut short by the Nepalese insurgency movement that has a bearing on the lives of all the characters. Masterfully moving between first and third worlds, the book deals with many themes like loneliness, cultural identity, class distinctions, love and nationhood.

Gita to Jailbirds

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has decided to gift prisoners with the Bhagavad Gita, in an attempt to change their mindset.

of the

The Blind Assassin **Margaret Atwood, 2000**

This much acclaimed novel by the Canadian writer Margaret Atwood is set in Canada during the 1930s and 1940s. The Blind Assassin is not just the title of Atwood's book but also the title of a novel-within-a-novel that Atwood introduces, a bizarrely futuristic novel about obsession, purportedly written by the narrator Iris Chase's sister Laura who had committed suicide immediately after World War II. Iris's account of her life with her sister is interspersed with extracts from her book and leads up to the startling climax. Hailed as the first great novel of the new millennium, Atwood's clever and complex work won her many awards including the 2000 Booker Prize.

A Case of Exploding Mangoes **Mohammed Hanif, 2008**

This is assassination fiction at its exuberant best. The Pakistani writer Mohammed Hanif's much lauded debut novel is a fictionalisation of one of the sub continent's unravelled mysteries in the C-130 Hercules crash on August 17, 1988 that killed the former Pakistani President Gen. Zia ul Haq. Set in the months before and just after Gen. Zia's death, the story is narrated by Ali Shigri, a junior trainee officer in the Pakistan Air Force. Hanif merrily peppers the book with conspiracy theories about the crash that include an elaborate plot hatched by the narrator himself to wreak vengeance for the suicide of his father under suspicious circumstances. The literary debt Hanif owes Joseph Heller and Catch 22 is evident in the language as well as in the style and technique.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Mark Haddon, 2003

Fifteen-year-old Christopher John Francis Boone has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, and narrates his own story in



Mark Haddon

this unique novel that has as its title a phrase from the Sherlock Holmes short story, Silver Blaze. Christopher lives in a strange and emotionless world in which Maths is no problem but people are difficult to comprehend.

Beginning dramatically with the murder of a dog, the book describes Christopher's attempts to find the murderer, a quest that leads to a startling revelation and a terrifying journey. Brilliant and original, this work brought its British writer the 2003 Whitbread Novel of the Year Award and an inclusion in the long list for the Man Booker Prize.

The Da Vinci Code

Dan Brown, 2003

A book that was dismissed as pulp fiction by elitist critics took the reading public



Dan Brown

by storm. Dan Brown's controversial novel begins with a murder and ends with a sensational disclosure. The murder of 76 year old Jacques Sauniere, the curator of Paris's Louvre Museum and the strange codes he leaves behind bring

together his granddaughter Sophie

Sixty Lakh Teachers

India has over 60 lakh teachers for about 12 lakh educational institutions including primary to senior secondary and pre-degree colleges. About 70 p.c. of these teachers work in the elementary schools.

The Namesake

Jhumpa Lahiri, 2003

This book is all about names and the trauma a thoughtlessly given name can cause its owner. Gogol the protagonist of the book has been named after the Russian writer Nicolai Gogol in a debt of gratitude paid by his father because the book of Gogol's stories he had been reading had been instrumental in saving his life when his train was involved in an accident. Set in the US where Gogol's Bengali parents have settled, the novel, through the identity crisis Gogol faces, examines the quest for identity and the clash of cultures faced by Indian immigrants in America.



Jhumpa Lahiri

Never Let Me Go

Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005

This book is a chilling examination of the unethical nature of cloning, the dangers of science, the tragedy of conditioning and the banality of evil. Set in the 1990s in England, the land of the first sheep clone, Dolly, the story is narrated in a precise manner by 31-year-old Kathy.H who recapitulates her past. She remembers her school days spent with her special friends Tommy.D and Ruth at Hailsham, an elite school in the English countryside. Children in the school had neither parents nor surnames and the mystery was solved when they slowly learnt the disturbing truth that they were cloned for the express purpose of providing

donor organs for transplants. The story moves forward to a conclusion that is a mixture of sadness and resignation. This existentialist masterpiece brought its Japanese born British writer tremendous critical acclaim.

On Beauty

Zadie Smith, 2005

Set in the US at the turn of the millennium this novel, described by its British writer as a 'homage' to E.M. Forster's novel Howard's End, is about two families and addresses ethnic and cultural differences that exist in both the UK and the US. The Belsey family, headed by the 57 year old white liberal academician, Howard Belsey, lives in the fictional town of Wellington outside Boston. Howard's wife is African American and they have three children. The Trinidadian, Monty Kipps, conservative to the core, is an academician too and lives with his wife and two children in Britain. When Kipps comes to Wellington, the paths of these two very different families cross and re cross and become the platform to show case the conflicts between families of polarised attitudes and beliefs. This novel was awarded the 2006 Orange Prize for fiction.

The Road

Cormac McCarthy, 2006

This powerful post apocalyptic masterpiece is set chillingly in the former United States, some years after an unexplained disaster had destroyed most of civilization. Shameful bands of cannibals and scavenging refugees represent what is left of humanity. An unnamed man and his sickly ten-year-old son spend many

The Best of the Best

Salman Rushdie's 'Midnight's Children' has won the 'Best of the Booker' award. Five other books were nominated for the prize: 'Disgrace' by J.M. Coetzee, 'The Significance' by Krishnapur' by J.G. Farnell, 'The Conservationist' by Nadine Gordim, 'Lucinda' by Peter Carey and 'The Ghost Road' by Pat Barker.

The Kite Runner

Haia Hosseini, 2003

This absorbing and much acclaimed debut novel by the Afghan-American writer Hosseini is set against the background of the tumultuous events that rocked Afghanistan in the second half of the twentieth century. Set in Afghanistan and the US, it delineates the fortunes of Amir, a young boy from Kabul, whose guilt of betraying his close childhood friend Hassan, the son of his father's servant, casts a shadow over him right up to adulthood when he gets a chance to make amends for the wrongs that have haunted him for years. The story is interwoven with events like the fall of the monarchy in Afghanistan and the Soviet invasion, the fleeing of Afghans to Pakistan and the US and the rise of the Taliban regime.

Life of Pi

Yann Martel, 2001

An incredible sea adventure novel set in Toronto, Pondicherry and Mexico, but mostly on the waves of the Pacific Ocean, the book is the story of sixteen year old Pi Patel and his extraordinary 227 day voyage on a life boat with a 50 pound Royal Bengal tiger, Richard



Yann Martel

Parker, for company. Pi is left to fend for himself when the ship that is taking him and his family to Canada sinks leaving him the sole human survivor. Showing admirable presence of mind and great strength of char-

acter, Pi manages to ward off threats from nature and creatures alike. The Canadian writer Yann Martel got the 2002 Man Booker Prize for this deceptively simple but skilfully crafted work.

The Line of Beauty

Alan Hollinghurst, 2004

Set in the UK of the 1980s, this Booker winning novel is the story of Nick Guest, a gay 20-year-old Oxford graduate who moves into the house of the Feddens, a wealthy political family. The book is an indictment of the Thatcherite Britain of the 80s with its ruthlessness and its emphasis on wealth and power. By exploring Nick's intimate relationships with the Feddens and the realities of his sexuality and his gay life, the book lays bare the social problems of the time.

My Name is Red

Orhan Pamuk, 2001

With a many layered plot that has at its starting point the murder of Elegant, a



Orhan Pamuk

miniaturist, and about twenty first person voices, including those of the murderer and his victims, this complex and slow paced historical novel, set in sixteenth century Istanbul, is about miniaturists and broadly speaking, about art.

At the same time, the Turkish novelist and winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Literature also takes a searching look at the clash of cultures and civilizations.

The 150th Anniversary of Darwin's Magnum Opus

The year 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's great work 'On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life'. The work came to be titled 'The Origin of Species' in 1872, in the sixth edition.

that is a folk love story, crime thriller, history lesson and political allegory rolled into one.

Shantaram

Gregory David Roberts, 2003

The adventurous and sensational life led by the Australian writer, Gregory Roberts, a former armed robber and heroin addict, finds literary expression in this lengthy novel. The story is narrated by Lindsay Ford or Lin who arrives in Bombay and befriends a local man Prabaker. The two go to Prabaker's village where his mother gives Lin the name Shantaram or Man of God's Peace. Slums, disease, underworld operations, Bollywood, prison stints, torture, smuggling are just some of the things dealt with in the book which ends with Lin's desire to embrace an honest life.

Slow Man

J.M.Coetzee, 2005

Coetzee's first novel after getting the 2003 Nobel for Literature is an ambitious post modern work on loneliness, ageing, writing and acceptance. It centres around the efforts of a reclusive 60-year-old retired photographer Paul Rayment to come to terms with the loss of a leg after a cycling accident. A cold man with no friends, Rayment finds it very difficult to find solace in anything until the entry of Marijana Jokic, a Croatian nurse into his life. Things take a startling turn when Coetzee introduces Elizabeth Costello, the heroine of one of his previous novels, and probably the author's alter ego, into the book. She exhorts Rayment to lead a more interesting life and their relationship takes the book to a strange conclusion.

True History of Kelly Gang

Peter Carey, 2000

The New York based Australian writer Peter Carey's historical novel that got him the 2001 Booker is the story of the legendary Ned Kelly, Australia's most famous outlaw who was executed as a murderer and a horse thief in 1880. The story is revealed in the form of letters written in a distinctive vernacular to his baby daughter that he never sees. Born to very poor Irish immigrants, a conspiracy of circumstances makes him an outlaw who is a murderer in the eyes of the British police and an endearing national hero to most Australians. This exhilarating and panoramic work has the force of a classic Western and keeps alive the aura surrounding the legend of Ned Kelly.

Vernon God Little

DBC Pierre, 2003

This novel (Booker Prize, 2003) by the Australian born writer Peter Warren Finlay who took on the pen name DBC (standing for Dirty But Clean) Pierre is a black comedy featuring Vernon



DBC Pierre

Gregory Little, a troubled teenager. Little is fifteen and lives in a small town in Texas in the US. Wrongly accused of being a conspirator in a horrific incident involving the killing of 16 bullying schoolmates by his friend Jesus Navarro who then commits suicide, he goes on the run when things get completely out of hand. Written in contemporary vernacular, the book succeeds in presenting the ambiguities present in contemporary US. It won the 2003 Booker Prize.

A Book at Age 102

British writer Alice Porlock published her first book, *Portrait of My Victorian Self* when she was 102 years old.

months on the road determined to reach what was earlier Southeastern US. The educated father fears for his son and carries a pistol with two bullets to help them take their lives if need be. A horrific landscape bereft of vegetation, fog, grey skies, and grotesque scenes on the way make the father fear for his son. The book however, ends on a note of hope. The novel's American author received the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for this profoundly dark and haunting work.

The Sea

John Banville, 2005

Giving his prose "the kind of denseness and thickness that poetry has," John Banville, one of Ireland's most acclaimed stylists, has managed to compress in 195 pages an extraordinary tribute to the power of memory. Written as a reflective journal, this intense novel won the 2005 Man Booker Prize. It tells the story of Max Morden, a retired art historian, who returns to the seaside village where he had spent a summer as a child and attempts to come to terms with the deaths of those he loved through his musings on his past. Beginning the narration after his wife Anna's death, his memories flit haphazardly among time spent with the Graces, a wealthy middle class family, time spent with his wife and the present.

Sea of Poppies

Amitav Ghosh, 2008

Ghosh's concern with themes of exile, power and identity find expression yet again in his *Sea of Poppies*, which is the first volume of a planned trilogy. Set in the 1830s, the book has as its central



Amitav Ghosh

figure Deeti, an opium farmer's wife who, having escaped sati, leaves for the plantations of Mauritius as a bonded labourer with other exiles in the ship 'Ibis'. Fictionalising the lead up to the Opium Wars, Ghosh reveals through

the narrative his anger for the opium trade and his hatred for its perpetrators. The book, though lauded for its story telling skills, has been criticized for its one-dimensional portraiture of the English.

Shalimar the Clown

Salman Rushdie, 2005

The novel tells the story of love, betrayal and revenge that spans three generations and three continents. It begins with the murder of Max Ophuls, the ex-US Ambassador, by his Kashmiri chauffeur, Shalimar. In an extended flashback, the motive for the crime is revealed. Shalimar, called Shalimar the clown for his skill in tight rope walking, falls in love with a Hindu girl, Boonyi Kaul at four-



Salman Rushdie

teen and marries her soon after but finds his happy life falling apart when Boonyi seduces the Ambassador Max Ophuls and leaves her husband. She bears Ophuls's child, India. Shalimar, thirsting for revenge, turns into a terrorist. Blending

clever satire with typically imaginative word play, Rushdie has crafted a novel

A Book to Pay for Mother's Funeral

Samuel Johnson, the British writer and lexicographer, often relied on hack work for money. His moral fable 'Rasselas' was written in a week to pay for his mother's funeral in 1759.

answered. It reflects the view that reason and scientific method should be applied in finding the truth.

Agraphia : It is the loss of ability to write despite normal functioning of hand. This is caused by the damage of cerebrum.

Ahura Mazda: The supreme God of Zoroastrians. Ahura means Lord and Mazda means Wisdom. According to Zoroastrian faith, Mazda is pure goodness and is the creator of the seven creations comprising man, cattle, fire, earth, sky, water and plants.

Akinesia : The loss of movement almost completely due to the loss of power in a group of muscles. This is caused by damage to nerves supplying that group due to reasons like stroke.

Albinism: An abnormality caused by mutation of pigment controlling genes. Albinos (person or animal affected with albinism) have abnormally white skin, light hair and pink eyes.

Alexia : A type of blindness in which the affected person is unable to recognize and read written words.

Algorithm: Any procedure involving a series of steps used to find the solution to a specific problem.

Alkaline hydrolysis: Dissolving bodies and flushing the residue down the drain, method developed to get rid of animal carcasses.

Alliteration : Use of two or more words with the same initial letters in succession or a succession of the same initial letters in a passage. Eg. I sing books, of blossoms, birds, and bowers (Robert Herrick).

Alta Vista: Popular free text search engine in the internet. It was launched

in 1995 by the Digital Equipment Corporation.

Alzheimer's Disease: A disease affecting brain which results in loss of memory and other mental abilities. It results from the gradual destruction of brain cells. Inherited abnormalities in brain play a major role in most of the victims of this disease. It is very rare among persons below 40 but affects 20 to 30 percent of persons above 85 years of age.

Ambrosia: A mystical substance believed to be eaten by Gods of Greek and Roman mythology. It is commonly believed that any one who eat ambrosia can become immortal.

Amino Acid: The main constituent of protein which is essential to the manufacture of hormones, tissues and other body products. Natural food items like milk, egg, pea, seed etc are rich sources of protein.

Anabasis (resuscitation): Restoring to life from a deathlike condition.

Anachronism: Representing something as existing at other than its historical time.

Anagram: A word or phrase formed by transposing letters of another word or phrase.

Angiogenesis: A treatment that involves injecting the heart with a protein called fibroblast growth factor (FGF-1) which causes new vessels to sprout, creating a network of capillaries and small arteries. An option for heart patients that could reduce the need for angioplasty, bypass and cardiac catheterization.

Angina pectoris: Chest pain that strikes when the heart is starved of oxygen-rich blood.

Angioplasty: The method of treating

Nocebo

Nocebo is a harmless substance which can have harmful effects when taken by a sick person, due to the psychological condition of the patient or negative expectations.

Dictionary of Terms

Abacus: Archaic mathematical tool used since ancient times in the Middle and Far East for addition and subtraction.

Absentee voter: A person unable to be at the polls at election time.

Abracadabra: A magic formula, used in incantations.

Absolutism: A political system based on absolute and uncontrolled political power, which they believe derived from God's absolute sovereignty over human destiny.

Abulia : The state of mind characterised by lack of will or motivation and inability to take decisions.

Acarology: Branch of zoology dealing with ticks and mites.

Acid Rain: A phenomenon in which sulphuric acid and nitric acid are formed in the atmosphere due to the reaction of rain drops with atmospheric gases like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

Acrostic : A poem in which the first letters of each line taken in order to form a name or a sentence.

Acromegaly : Deformity caused by excessive secretion of growth hormone from anterior pituitary gland. It results in the enlargement of hands, fingers, feet, ears, nose, etc.

Adipose : A layer of tissue beneath the skin and around kidneys which acts as insulation against cold and a storage of energy.

Advertorial: A journalistic term coined by combining the words advertisement

and editorial. It denotes articles or features which are paid by advertisers. Usually items of this category are commercial in nature and have little news value.

Aerobics: A system of physical exercise done to the tune of music. It also includes other usual exercises like walking, jogging, cycling, swimming etc. Aerobics is most fashionable among the urban youth.

Aerocapture: A technique for placing a spacecraft in orbit around a planet by taking advantage of planetary atmosphere. No expenditure of chemical propellants is involved in this proposed method.

Aerodynamics: Science dealing with the study of motion of air and gases. This is most crucial in the designing of aircraft, automobiles, trains, ships, bridges and high rise buildings. Sir Isaac Newton's laws of mechanics is considered as the beginning theories of Aerodynamics.

Aerostatics: The branch of statics that deals with gases in equilibrium and with gases and bodies in them.

Agent Orange: Military code name for a weed killer sprayed by USA during the Vietnam war over the jungles and farms. Agent Orange is normally used to defoliate trees and shrubs and to kill weeds. The steel drums that stored this chemical were marked with big orange stripes and hence the name originated.

Agnosticism: A term originated from the Greek word agnostos, which means not knowing. It is the belief that ultimate questions like the existence of God can't be

Gray Literature

Gray literature is written material (e.g. a report) that is not published commercially or is not generally accessible. Gray matter is a colloquial term for intellectual capacity.

Arya Samaj: A reformist movement founded in 1875 by Dayanand Saraswati based on the slogan, 'back to the Vedas'.

Asceticism: A religious practice of voluntary, sustained self discipline and denial of physical and psychological desires for sublime spiritual attainment. Those who practice this called ascetics.

Astigmatism: A visual defect in which both nearby and distant objects appear blurred. It is caused by an abnormal curvature of the cornea which usually affects both eyes.

Astronomy: The scientific study of celestial bodies such as sun, moon, stars, planets etc.

Atlantic Charter: Principles agreed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Franklin D Roosevelt in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland in 1945 August when the Second World war was raging Europe.

Aurora: A natural display of light in the form of arcs, clouds, streaks, flickers and the like in the sky which is visible only in night.

Authoritarianism: A political system with ruthless control over the people which it believes essential for the welfare of the society. It never accepts individual freedom or civil liberties. Authoritarian systems can be of any type ranging from capitalist to socialist or from religious to business.

Autocracy: It is a perverted form of absolutism in which the power is concentrated in an individual who acts arbitrarily without any concern for the people's welfare.

Automation: The use of electronic equipments, machines, computers etc. to

perform tasks normally done by people.

Autopsy: Dissection and examination of a dead body to determine cause of death. Also known as postmortem or necropsy.

Avant Garde : Those who create or support the newest ideas and techniques in an art.

Avogadro's constant: The physical quantity of molecules in a mole or of electronic charges in a faraday.

Axiomatics: A scientific method used to arrive at logical deductions from accepted facts.

Ayatollah: A Shiite Muslim title. It means 'sign of God'. Particularly associated with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Aztec: A civilisation developed between the 12th and 16th century by the Tenochca tribe, migrated into the valley of Mexico from the Azatlan region in the north.

Balance of Power: A foreign policy principle in which alliances of nations are formed to prevent one nation from achieving overwhelming power in any one part of the world.

Balanced growth: A particular form of growth process of the economy in which all the main economic aggregates - national income, consumption, stock of capital, employment-grow at the same percentage rate over time.

Ballad : A short narrative poem or a slow love song that tells a story in popular music adopted for reciting and singing.

Ballet : A European theatrical dance form with its own characteristic techniques like leaps and pirouetting on toes. It was created by Italian masters in France in the 15th century.

Bamboo Curtain: The controls and

Avoiding Obstacles

Most bats cannot see well. But they do not catch in your hair. They always avoid any obstacles in their way.

tenosis or occlusion of a blood vessel or heart valve by using a balloon into the constricted area.

Animus : The masculine inner self of woman.

Angstrom Unit: A unit of length equal to one hundred-millionth of a centimetre. It has now been replaced by the nanometre.

Antinovel : A work of fiction that rejects the conventional elements of a novel.

Antithesis: Placing together of sharply contrasting ideas. Eg. They died what we might live.

Aphorism : Terse, witty, pointed statement on a general principle. It is a maxim or concise sentence containing precept or important truth. Eg. Anybody who hates children and dogs can't be all good (W.C. Fields).

Apathy: The lack of interest in oneself or one's surroundings.

Aphasia : The inability of a person to speak and write due to cerebral dysfunction.

Aphonia : Total loss of voice due to reasons like sudden emotional stress.

Aphrodisiac: Drugs or substances capable of increasing sexual excitement and performance.

Applique Art: An intricate handicraft originated in the village, Pipli in Orissa. The wall hangings, bed sheets, umbrellas, bags, ladies' dresses etc prepared by applique craftsmen are entralling with its grace and artistry.

Appropriate Technology: It is a concept originated as a reaction to over industrialization and massive industrial production. Theorists of appropriate technology advocate that the third world

countries should use only that technology which is appropriate to their economy. It underlines the concept, 'small is beautiful' and supports Gandhian Economics which is based on concepts like decentralization, cottage industry and sustainable development.

Aqualung: A device that allows a diver to breathe under water.

Aqueduct: Artificial channel for carrying water from one place to another. It can be built with concrete, steel, wood and the like and in some cases tunnels and canals are constructed. In aqueduct the outlet will be much lower than the source and hence gravity alone carries the water.

Arable Farming: The cultivation of plants for food, fibres, vegetable oils, etc. especially on a field scale.

Arbitrate: Practice of switching short-term funds from one investment to another in order to obtain the best return. Also the act of buying at the lower price and reselling at the higher price.

Arboriculture: Cultivation of trees and vegetables.

Archaeology: The scientific study of the history of ancient societies from their existing remains or antiques.

Artificial Insemination: The technique used to induce pregnancy in women who are unable to conceive naturally. The semen is inducted into the uterus not by sexual intercourse but through artificial means. This method was originally developed and extensively used to breed cattle with improved characteristics.

Artificial Intelligence: Computer programmes capable of taking decisions and actions similar to human intelligence.

Nervous Nellie

The expression is slang for a timid person who is easily upset and is hesitant to act. Originally it was used of high-strung racehorses.

psychologist Wilhelm Reich. This system also known as character analysis is based on the theory that sexual frustration is the root cause of neurosis. This theory equates sexual energy with a universally existing life force called 'orgone'.

Bioengineering: A branch of engineering that develops devices and equipments to replace human body parts.

Bioethics: The study of the ethical problems arising from scientific advances.

Biometrics: The use of statistical and other mathematical methods of analysis on data pertaining to living organisms.

Biometry: The application of mathematics to the study of living things.

Bionics: A term coined with the first syllable of biology and the last syllable of electronics. This is applied to a variety of scientific projects involving biological systems, engineering systems and artificial intelligence. Bionics study biological processes like storing of solar energy by plants, light emission by fireflies etc. Machines are then devised to simulate the processes for technological application.

Biopsy: Microscopic diagnosis of a living being's tissues to determine abnormal cell development or malignancy.

Biosphere: The sphere of life with 11 million animal species and 350,000 plant species existing in the surface of earth and upper layers of water. The atmosphere (air), lithosphere (solid earth) and the hydrosphere (water) constitute the non-living geosphere.

Bird of prey: Also known as raptor. Any bird that hunts mammals and other birds for food. Eagle, falcon, hawk and vulture are birds of prey.

Blisc

activity of a person to both the sexes.

Black Dragon Society: A secret society formed by Japanese politicians in 1901 with the idea of war against Russia. It wanted Japan to conquer territories upto the river Amur (Black Dragon).

Black Economy: That part of a country's economic activity which is not recorded in the national income accounts, although it does involve the production of goods and services.

Black Market: Secret sale of goods or currency violating government rules related to pricing, quota, rationing, priority, welfare etc.

Black Nationalism : A movement advocating the establishment of a separate black nation within the US.

Black Shirt: A member of any fascist organisation with a black-shirted uniform.

Blockbuster : A film or a broadcast programme that becomes an extraordinary success with huge audience and high ratings

Bloomsbury Group: A British group of artists of the 1920s and 1930s.

Bode's Law: A concept devised in 1766 by Johann D Titius, a German mathematician, regarding the approximate distances of planets from the sun.

Bonsai: The art of growing decorative dwarf or miniature trees in trays, A container. The word bonsai means potted. Originating in China it later was fully developed as a popular art and hobby in Japan.

Bosque: Search for the meaning of searching internet or a database. Bosque operation - AND OF ALL THAT.

Bottom line: The main point.

restrictions imposed by Mao Zedong in communist China to prevent its population from having exposure to the outside world, especially capitalist western societies.

Bandung conference: A conference of Afro-Asian leaders held in Bandung, Indonesia, to assert their identity independent of the big powers.

Bandwidth: The quantity of information that can be transmitted through a communication line. It denotes the capacity of the line, measured in bits per second.

Baptism: A religious practice in which washing or ablution with water is performed. It symbolises purification, washing away of sins and the start of a renewed life. Baptism is a most important ceremony for Christians.

Barbecue: Cooking of meat, fish or vegetables in metal frame over an open fire. Originally it referred to the roasting of a whole pig, ox or other large animal over wood or charcoal fire in an open place.

Baroque: A style of art and architecture, named after the Italian painter Federico Barocci. This was originated as a reaction against reformation movement and classicism and was directly promoted by the Catholic Church.

Base period: The time period used as the base from which to calculate an index number or a growth rate.

Bathos : Sudden descent into the ridiculous, often for comic effect. E.g. He is a gentleman; look at his boots (George Bernard Shaw).

Beat generation: A group of young Americans, who, fed up with Western values turned to Eastern religion for inspi-

ration. They adopted a Bohemian lifestyle and tried experimental literary forms.

Benelux: An economic alliance formed in 1948 by three nations - Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Beriberi: A disease caused by deficiency of thiamine (vitamin B). It causes stiffness of lower limbs, paralysis, and pain and ultimately the victim becomes too sick to do anything.

Berliner Ensemble: A theatre company in East Berlin. Founded by Bertolt Brecht, playwright and theatre director, Berliner Ensemble was a major influence on 20th century theatre.

Bernoulli disk: A form of computer magnetic disk storage, named after Daniel Bernoulli, the Dutch mathematician. The disk can be removed and replaced.

Best boy: The charge-hand electrician working under the gaffer, who is the chief electrician in a film or TV production crew.

Bibliography: A list of books or articles about a subject or an author.

Big Bang: A theory explaining the origin of universe. According to this theory the universe originated from a sudden explosion of energy 10,000 -15,000 million years ago and started expanding to all directions. Over millions of years the expanding mass formed into particles, then into gas. Due to gravity gas became compressed and broken up to form galaxies planets and stars.

Biodegradability: The capacity of a substance to decompose by bacterial or biological processes into nature friendly elements.

Bioenergetics: A system of psycho-analytic therapy developed by Austrian

The Banyan Tree

The Indian banyan tree resembles something from a science-fiction film. Its huge horizontal branches grow aerial roots which hang down and eventually act as supporting struts.

its exploitation of labour.

Carbon Dioxide Snow: Solid carbon dioxide, used as a refrigerant.

Carpology: The science of fruits and seeds.

Cartography: The science of mapping geographical areas in a flat surface as per scale. Modern techniques like satellite photo mapping and aerial photography has made cartography a sophisticated branch of science.

Catalyst: Substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction.

Catalytic converter: Device using chemical agents that assist changes in other substances while retaining its own quality.

Catharsis: Psychological term describing the way in which psychotherapy helps a person to release pent up feelings and emotions. It also means emotional purging and purification brought about by the experience of pity and fear, as in a tragic drama.

Catch phrase: A phrase in popular use, like one associated with a show-business personality.

Catology: The science of aquatic mammals, especially whales.

Cat's Eyes: Safety device to help drivers to see the road. Small pieces of shaped glass backed by mirrors that reflect light are placed in a domed rubbered pad and sunk in the road.

Caucus: In US caucus is an open meeting of party policy makers, who take crucial decisions of a political party. But in India caucus means an inner group engaged in behind the scene operations within a political party.

Celsius: The universally accepted standard of measuring temperature. Celsius is a centigrade scale that divides

the freezing and boiling points of water into 100 parts. This was developed by Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius in 1742 which soon replaced the earlier system of Fahrenheit.

Censure Motion: A motion moved against the government in general censuring any of its policy or particularly against a minister or ministers.

Chain Letter: A letter circulated among people by being copied and sent to others who do the same.

Chain Reaction: Any sequence of events each of which has an effect on the following.

chamber music: Classical music written for a small number of instruments.

Chartism: A political movement of the British working class during the early 19th C. It was based on liberal ideology and it considered political reform essential for social and economic development.

Checks and Balances: A constitutional system in democracies as a safeguard from possible misuse of power.

Chemotherapy: The use of anti-cancer (cytotoxic) drugs to destroy cancer cells (including leukaemias and lymphomas). The word means 'drug treatment'.

Chikungunya: It is a rare form of viral fever caused by the 'alphavirus' transmitted to human by the bite of infected mosquitoes. The term Chikungunya is derived from 'makonde' meaning 'that which bends up' in reference to the stooped posture developed as a result of the arthritic symptom of the disease.

Chipco Movement: A popular environment movement in India started by Sunderlal Bahuguna in 1972. Chipco is a Hindi-Garhwali word meaning embrace. The first direct action of this movement took place in 1973 at the Mandal forest

The Unique Libra

Libra is the only astrological sign not personified by a living thing.

Botulism: A kind of food poisoning caused by a toxin produced by the *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria.

Bourse: Stock exchange. Originally the exchange of Paris or any other city in continental Europe.

Boyttox: A way to describe cosmetic surgery for men.

Brain Storming : A technique used for idea generation in which a team of persons put forward new ideas freely and spontaneously.

Brand Loyalty : Repeated purchase of a particular brand of product by the consumer. Usually it is the result of a right combination of quality and price.

Bread and breakfast: sleeping accommodation and breakfast in a hotel or a guest house.

Browser: A client program in the computer to access the internet.

Brutalism: A style of architecture. It uses stark, geometric lines.

Bullion: Gold, silver or other precious metal in bulk, i.e. in the form of ingots or bars rather than in coin.

Bureaucracy: The hierarchical structure of administrative set up for carrying out the administration of large organisations like government, industry, company etc. In bureaucracy, the authority is centralised and the officers are strictly graded in different levels with defined responsibilities.

Caffeine: An odourless and slightly bitter organic alkaloid naturally found in coffee, tea, cocoa and cola nuts. Caffeine, when taken in small quantities helps human metabolism. But when taken in large quantities it causes nervousness, loss of sleep, headache, digestive disorders etc.

Calamine: A pink substance consisting

of zinc oxide and is used in skin powders and ointments.

Callisthenics: The systematic exercises for attaining strength and gracefulness.

Calligraphy: The art of beautiful and decorative handwriting. Calligraphy presents letters in an aesthetic style with attractive curves, strokes etc.

Camouflage: The art and tactics of hiding military equipment and troops from an enemy. It employs different techniques like matching colour - white in snow, green in jungles or covering military equipments with roofs of earth or branches of trees.

Campanology: It is the art of ringing church bells. There are two forms of bell-ringing: change ringing, which is a hand-pulled method, and the carillon method which uses a keyboard connected to the clappers of the bells.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND): It was an organisation established in Britain in 1958 to mobilize public opinion against nuclear weapons.

Capacitance: It is the measure of a system's ability to store electric charge.

Capital formation: Net investment in fixed assets, i.e. additions to the stock of real capital.

Capital Punishment: Death ordered by the state for severe crimes like murder, rape, armed robbery etc.

Capital: The stock of goods that are used in production and which have themselves been produced.

Capitalism: The politico-economic system, based on private property and private profit, censured by Karl

How much Does a Pygmy Shrew Eat?

The pygmy shrew, the smallest mammal, is constantly active. To keep itself, this little creature must feed every few hours. It often consumes twice its own weight of food every day.

Communication Gap: A situation in the process of communication when no meaningful exchange of ideas or information takes place. This may be due to the physical or mental differences between the parties involved in the communication.

Concentration Camp: A place where 'political enemies' are imprisoned usually without trial. The term was first used by Britain for the prison camps set during the Boer war around 1900. Those setup by Nazi Germany in which an estimated 7 to 8 million prisoners were kept, were notorious.

Conditional Access System (CAS): A transmission system in which the TV signals are encrypted in order to prevent interception or defaulting by the users. A set top box is used to decrypt the signals.

Constructivism: An art movement developed in Russia around 1920, in which industrial materials are used to create objects.

Consumer Credit: Short-term loans to the public for the purchase of specific goods.

Consumer's Sovereignty: This is said to exist when resources are allocated in line with consumers' preference as opposed to say, state direction.

Continental System: The blockade designed by Napoleon to weaken Britain through destruction of British commerce.

Conveyor belt: A continuously moving strip of rubber or metal which is used in factories for moving objects along.

Countertenor: A man who sings with a high voice that is similar to a low female singing voice.

Coup d'etat: An attempt to get rid of the President or the government of a country.

Court Martial: Military court dealing with cases relating to members of armed forces and civilians employed in military bases. These courts follow normal legal procedure and the accused is considered innocent until he is found guilty.

Convergence of Media: Technology in which multiple media come together to form a single media with the advantages and features of all of them. Normally this means more features than the conventional media in less space and size. Eg. Mobile phones incorporated with digital camera, MP3 player, camcorder, voice recorder etc.

Crainology: The science that deals with skull.

Credit: Granting the use or possession of goods and services without immediate payment. There are three types of credit: (a) Consumer credit; (b) Trade credit and (c) Bank credit.

Crew cut: A close-cropped man's haircut.

Cryogenics: The science dealing with the production, control and application of very low temperatures.

Cryptography: A branch of study dealing with codes and deciphers with the objective of maintaining privacy and secrecy of communication. Initially it was used for military and other strategic purposes. But with the advent of information technology it assumed wide commercial importance. Now it is commonly used in e-commerce, e-banking and other IT related areas.

Crystal therapy: A method of treat-

One Person Added Every 10 Seconds

In the US, one person is born every seven seconds while one dies every 13 seconds. With the emigrant-immigrant population taken account of, the picture is: population increases by one every 10 seconds.

the Chamoli district in Uttar Pradesh when the villagers marched in procession and put their arms around 50 ash trees marked by the forest department for felling. Initially it aimed at protection of trees but later the campaign turned to be a wide movement for alternative development.

Chinese Puzzle: A game in which you have to solve the problem of fitting many different pieces together, especially boxes inside other boxes.

Chronobiology: The study of duration of life.

Churchill: In common cigar parlance, Cuban Havana cigar measuring 178 mm. by 18.65 mm. Named after iconic British wartime leader Churchill.

Circumcision: The practice of removing the foreskin of male genital organ. In some societies it is done in females also, in which all or part of the external sex organ is cut off. Circumcision is advocated on the ground of reasons like sacrifice, submission to one's social group, preparation for marriage, symbolic recognition of the dangers of intercourse or simply as a hygienic measure.

Cladistics: The hierarchical classification of species based on evolutionary ancestry.

Classicism: A movement in art and life characterised by reason, order, balance and simplicity.

Clearing House: Any institution that settles mutual indebtedness between a number of organisations.

Cleopatra's Needle: Either of two ancient Egyptian obelisks in London and in New York. These were gifts from the ruler of Egypt (1878) to England the USA.

Client State: A country that is economically or politically dependent on a more powerful state.

Climax: Series of statements in rising order of intensity. Eg. I came, I saw, I conquered (Julius Caesar).

Cliffhanger: In a competition, a situation in which the outcome is uncertain until the very end.

Closed Economy: An economy assumed not to take part in international trade so that it has no exports or imports.

Closed User Group (CUG): A group of persons with access to communication and information facilities that are not available to non members of the group. Eg. Free CUG calls provided by some mobile phone companies.

Cloudburst: A sudden violent rain-storm falling for a short period of time limited to a small area. It is usually associated with thunderstorms.

Coeducation: System of teaching male and female students together in the same class or school.

Collage: Objects such as newspaper, string or cloth which are pasted onto canvas or paper.

Collateral: Money or property which is used as a guarantee that someone will repay a loan.

Colonnade: A series of trees placed at regular intervals.

Colour Blindness: Inability to differentiate all colours apart. This is also known as daltonism. A normal eye has three visual cells called cones helping to identify different colours. But the colour blinded eyes lack the cones completely or partially.

Gross National Happiness (GNH)

It is a measure of well-being, developed by the King of Bhutan, and similar to the Human Development Index. Bhutanese inner strength and social homogeneity give them a sense of happiness.

about 100 km, capable of reflecting radio waves. Also called Heaviside layer.

Elegy: A poem usually reflecting death, especially death of a friend. 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' by Thomas Grey is a world famous elegy.

Embalming: A chemical process by which dead bodies are preserved.

Embezzlement: Offence committed when someone entrusted with another's money or property illegally takes it for personal use. It is different from robbery.

Embossing: The process by which a raised design is stamped or pressed on the surface of materials like metal, leather, wood, paper etc.

Embourgeoisement: When workers get fair wages and their income rises they began to imitate the middle class by that shedding their revolutionary ideas and support to revolutionary parties.

Emoticon: Symbols or pictures used in computer communications to convey emotions.

Empathy: Awareness about the meaning and significance of the feelings, emotions and behaviour of another person. It is the projection of one's own consciousness into that of another.

Employment, Full: The economy is said to be at full employment when everyone who wishes in work at the going wage rate for his type of labour is employed but because it takes time to switch from one job to another there will at any one moment be a small amount of unemployment.

Encephalitis: Inflammation of the brain.

Encyclical: Letter from a Christian leader,

particularly the pope, which is intended for distribution among churches.

Epigram: A short, witty poem or pointed saying characterised by compression, polish, balance and clarity.

Epilogue: Concluding section of a book, play, film, television programme etc usually as a comment on what has happened.

Epiphany: A Christian festival held on January 6, in memory of the coming of Magi to the Infant Jesus at Bethlehem.

Epitaph: Memorial inscription on a tombstone or other monument to the dead.

E-publishing: Production and distribution of different media products in digital format. E publishing is similar to the traditional print publishing but the content distribution in this system is done through different storage devices or through computer networks.

Eschatology: The study of death, destiny.

Estate duty: A tax payable on a person's property at his death and before it passes into the hands of others.

Ethnology: A branch of anthropology that deals with the origin, distribution and distinguishing characteristics of the race of mankind.

Etymology: The study of the origin and development of words.

Eugenics: The study of the production of better offspring by the careful selection of parents.

Eulogy: A writing or speech in praise of a person

Euphemism: Polite or inoffensive way of saying something unpleasant.

Psyche

Psychology gets its name from Psyche, the beautiful girl in Greek mythology desired by Eros, the god of love. Against his orders, she looked at him in a mirror, and he abandoned her. Eventually she was reunited with Eros. Personification of the human soul.

Dossier : Set or bundle of documents relating to a particular person or happening.

Double Jeopardy: Subjection of an accused person to repeated trial for the same offence. In India, no person can be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once.

Double Taxation: The situation in which the same tax-base is taxed more than once.

Draconian: A law or governmental action which is unreasonably severe or too much than what is necessary or right.

Drug Holiday: A medical term denoting the discontinuance of a drug for a limited period of time for evaluating the effect or side effect.

Drug Tolerance: Repeated use of some substance, drug or narcotics results in a condition in which larger and larger doses are required to produce the same psychological or physiological effects obtained earlier from smaller doses.

Dry Dock: A dock in which a ship can lie out of water for repairing the parts below its waterline.

Dry Farming: The process of growing crops in semi arid regions without irrigation and sufficient rainfall.

Dumping: The sale of a commodity on a foreign market at a price below original cost.

Dumpster diving: The practice of searching garbage bins for salvagable food and other items.

Duodecimo: A sheet of paper folded into 12 leaves. It is written as '12mo'.

Durable Goods: Consumer goods like washing machines, motor cars, TV sets, which yield services or utility over time

rather than being completely used up at the moment of consumption.

Dwarfism: Abnormal smallness, the common cause of which is lack of food.

Echolocation: The determination of the position of an object by the emission of sound waves which are reflected back to the sender as echoes.

Ecology: Biological science dealing with the study of organisms in their environments, social behaviour, conservation and adaptation of organisms.

Econometrics: A branch of economics that applies mathematics and statistics to economic theory. The analysed data and findings are very much useful for framing economic policies and decisions.

Economic Value Added (EVA): It measures the profit that a company earns over the cost of capital. Companies use this financial metric to evaluate the economic value they are generating for a given amount of capital employment.

Economies of Scale: These exist when expansion of the scale of productive capacity of a firm or industry causes total production costs to increase less than proportionately with output. As a result, long run average costs of production fall.

Eczema: Inflammation of skin with redness, soreness, itching and discharge of serous fluids.

Edutainment: Media programmes or contents which are a blend of education and entertainment intended to educate the users while entertaining.

Ekistics: The science of human settlements, including town and country planning.

E layer: a dense layer of ions in the E region of the ionosphere at an altitude of

Kosher

Like Islam, Judaism prohibits the eating of pork because the pig, a scavenger, is unclean. No shellfish is allowed in the Kosher ('clean') food in an orthodox Jewish home. Meat and dairy products shouldn't be prepared in the kitchen at the same time.

Flow Chart : A diagram which shows the sequence of steps to be followed for solving a particular problem, usually in algorithm

Flying Saucer: Another name of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) which is believed to be used by beings from other planets to visit earth. Sightings of these disc shaped vessels were reported from many parts of the world. But the scientific enquiry by US agencies ruled out the sightings as mere weather related phenomenon.

Food Chain: A natural cyclical process by which lesser organisms are eaten by higher organisms. When the higher organisms die and decompose, their nutrients are back to the soil where lesser organisms take them up and the chain action is repeated again.

Foreign Aid: The administered transfer of resources from the advanced countries for the purpose of encouraging economic growth in the developing countries.

Foreign Exchange: Claims on another country held in the form of the currency of that country or interest bearing bonds.

Foreign Investment: The acquisition by governments, institutions or individuals in one country of assets in another.

Fox fire: The luminiscence of decaying wood and plant remains, caused by various fungi.

Francophobe: A person who hates France and its people.

Fraternal Twins: Twins that are the result of simultaneous fertilisation of two ova by two sperms.

Free lunch: Something that costs nothing. The expression comes from the old practice of offering free lunches

to those who bought drinks. This is often used in negative constructions.

Free Market: A market in which the forces of supply and demand are allowed to operate unhampered by government regulation or other interference.

Freedom of the Seas: The doctrine that ships of any nation may travel through international waters unhampered.

Free Trade: The condition in which the free flow of goods and services in international exchange is neither restricted nor encouraged by direct government intervention.

Fresh gale: a wind whose speed is 39 to 46 miles per hour.

Freudian slip: A slip of the tongue or pen that seems to reveal a person's real character.

Fringe benefits: Rewards for employment over and above the wage paid, e.g. goods at a discount, subsidized meals, arrangements, etc.

Frost Bite: It affects any part of body, especially toes, nose, ears, and fingers below the temperature of -32 Degrees. Symptoms include pins and needle sensations followed by complete numbness. The skin seems white, cold and hard and later it becomes black.

Funt: The financially untouchable.

Fuzzy Logic: Logic, similar to human reasoning, applied in computer programming.

Gangrene: It is the death of tissue due to loss of blood supply. The affected skin and tissue becomes black.

Gastroenteritis: Infection of the digestive system caused by virus or bacteria. Symptoms are vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

The Most Expensive Clock

A Louis XVI clock, made for the Duc de Choiseul (the French Foreign Minister from 1758 to 1770), was sold at an auction for \$ 3,001,294 in 1999. The clock shows the seconds, minutes, hours, sunrise, sunset, date, day of the week.

mentionables for underclothes. Father law's house for jail. Working woman r prostitute.

Euthanasia: The practice of painlessly ling people who have incurable or painful diseases or disabilities. Also known as mercy killing, it is done when the incurably people ask a doctor or relative to put m to death.

Euthenics: the science of improving e human species through control of vironmental factors.

Excerpt : An extract or selection from book or writing.

Exobiology: A branch of biology that eals with the search for extraterrestrial e, especially intelligent life, outside our lar system. Exobiology is sometimes lled xenobiology or astrobiology.

Exosphere: Outermost part of a anet's atmosphere.

Extradition: The handing over by a reign state of a person, accused of a ime, to the state where it was commitd. Extradition is done through a treaty isting between independent nations.

Fablanism: A socialist movement in ngland with the objective of recon-structing society in accordance with the ghest moral precepts. It was originated London in 1884 with the formation of ie Fabian Society.

Factors of Production: According to larshall, these are 'the things required r making commodity'. These inputs are ounded into land, labour and capital.

Falconry: A sport item popular in gulf ountries in which natural predators like lcons, hawks and eagles are specially ained to kill prey and return to the gloved rists of owners. The peregrine falcon, hich is the world's fastest bird that can

swoop on a prey at 240 kmph, is the most prized bird in falconry. This blood sport known in the east as long ago as 2000 BC, is a favourite hobby of Arab Sheikhs.

Fibre Optics: A branch of physics that utilises a fine glass or plastic fibre with refraction properties that allow light to pass around curves and without loss of intensity. With this technology it is possible to convert an electrical signal into a light signal, pass it through fibre, and reconvert it into electrical signal at the receiving end. A single strand of a fibre optic cable can carry the entire telephone traffic of a large country. Fibre optics has revolutionised the field of telecommunication. It is also used in medical equipments like endoscope.

Filibustering: Practice by which a minority in a legislature uses non stop debate to block or delay action on a proposed bill. Members of the minority make long speeches and propose useless motions. The US senate has a tradition of this unlimited debate.

Final Products: Goods used by consumers in consumption, rather than by firms as inputs into process of production.

Firewall: A security device used in computer networks for protecting them from external access.

Floating Debt: Generally, any short-term debt, specifically, the part of the national debt that consists of short-term borrowing.

Floor Crossing: Changing one's allegiance from one party to another, especially in legislatures. The expression originated in the context that in most of the legislatures the ruling party and opposition sit facing each other in the floor of the house.

Mom's Favourite Offspring

A survey in Britain reveals that mothers have a favourite child, though they never reveal it. A large proportion of mothers confess to loving one child more than the rest.

usage of guerilla came into vogue during the Peninsular War of 1808-14 in which Spanish and Portuguese guerrilleros (little warriors) helped to drive the French out of Iberia. The general dictum of this war technique is that 'the guerilla wins when he does not lose; the army loses when it does not win'.

Guillotine: A machine with knife-blade used for beheading. This machine was adopted during the french revolution, named after Joseph Ignace Guillotine. In legislatures guillotine means the drastic method of curtailing debate.

Gulag: A forced labour camp or prison, especially for political prisoners.

Gunpowder Plot: The plot of 1605 to blow up king James I of England and the Houses of Parliament. The plot failed.

Habeas Corpus: A legal term in its original Latin, means you are ordered to have the body'. It is a writ or judicial order requiring that a prisoner be brought before a court at a stated time to decide the legality of his detention or imprisonment.

Hacker: A person who intrudes into computer networks using their programming skills and accesses or damages restricted data.

Halku: A poetic form in Japanese literature, consisting of 17 syllabus in five seven-five pattern.

Hard News: A current news story having significant impact, usually related to politics, economics, disaster etc. It is straight and serious news content with little 'flesh and spice'.

Heliotherapy: The sun cure.

Hermaphroditism: The condition of having both male and female reproductive organs.

Hermeneutics: Study of the general principles of biblical interpretation.

High Seas: The waters lying outside the territorial waters of any state.

Hippocratic Oath: An ethical code assumed to be developed by Greek physician Hippocrates. This moral code governs the professional conduct of medical practitioners all over the world.

Hodgkin's Disease: It affects the lymphoid tissue in the lymph node. It starts as a painless enlargement of lymph nodes. Persistent fever and unexplained weight loss may also follow.

Holocaust: Mass killing of Jews by the Nazi regime during WWII; widespread destruction of human life.

Holy Grail: The cup that Jesus Christ used at the Last Supper.

Home Front: The civilian population of a country at war.

Hologram: A three dimensional photographic image extensively used for creating watermark and identifying stamps in security documents and products. This technique developed in 1947 has a lot of commercial applications.

Homicide: Killing of one person by another.

Hospice: Nursing home that specializes in the care of people who are dying.

Human Sacrifice: The practice of killing human beings as a religious rite to propitiate the god.

Hundred Days: The period between Napoleon's arrival in Paris after escaping from exile on Elba and the return of Louis XVIII to Paris.

Huntington's Disease: A severe hereditary disease affecting the nervous system. It is named after George Huntington, an American Doctor. This

Ban on Pigs

French King Louis VI's son and heir was killed in 1131 when his horse tripped over a wandering pig. This led to the banning of free-roaming pigs in Paris after 11

hoea. This results in severe dehydration which will lead to convulsions or kidney failure or even to death.

Genesiology: The science of generation.

Geomedicine: The branch of medicine dealing with the influence of climate and environmental conditions on health.

Gerontology: The study of old age, its phenomena, diseases, etc.

Gerrymander: Rearrangement of electoral constituencies or districts in the interest of a particular political party or candidate. Commonly this a manipulative measure to give an unfair advantage to one political party especially the ruling party. The word gerrymander originated from the name of Governor Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts.

Ghost Writer: The real author of stories or books that bear name of someone else.

Giffen Goods: Goods which do not obey the law of demand, viz., that less is bought as price rises.

Gift Tax: A levy on the value of certain property given away to others and paid by the donor.

Ginseng: It is the root of a medicinal plant which contains the biologically active substance ginsenoside. It is used for thousand of years as a tonic and an aphrodisiac.

Global Warming: An increase over a period of the average temperature of earth's atmosphere and oceans. The greenhouse effect is attributed as the main reason for this phenomenon. Average global temperature since the late 19th century is taken (plus or minus) for assessing the effect of global warming.

Glottochronology: The study of the history of language.

Gold ETF: Gold exchange traded funds are instruments that trade like shares and are backed by physical gold holdings.

Gold Standard: A country said to be on the gold standard when its central bank is obliged to give gold in exchange for any of its currency presented to it.

Gold Standard: A monetary standard under which the basic unit of currency is equal in value to a given amount of gold.

Google: The most popular search engine in the Internet offering basic and advanced search options and mail service.

Googol: The number written as 1 followed by 100 zeroes, or 102.

Great Leap Forward: In 1958, this movement was initiated in China to speed up economic progress. The 'communes' under the Great Leap were a failure.

Greenhouse Effect: The phenomenon of heat building up in earth's atmosphere. This is happened when pollutant gases prevent it from escaping into space. The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere lets sunlight pass through it to earth, but it blocks the infrared radiation coming from earth because it is of a longer wavelength. Due to this the gas acts like a glass roof of a green house to trap the heat which makes the inside air hotter than outside.

Ground Crew: People responsible for the repair and maintenance of an aircraft.

Guerilla War: A type of warfare practised by irregular forces employing unorthodox military tactics to fight against established civil and military forces. The

A Ship's Name for a Space Shuttle

The space shuttle 'Endeavour' (1992) was named after a competition among American school children. Its name commemorates that of the 18th century British explorer Captain James Cook's ship, which sank in Newport Harbour, Rhode Island in 1778.

capable to handle different types of information like computer data, text, picture, voice etc.

Ishihara Test: A method for testing color blindness.

Itai-itai disease: a bone disease caused by industrial cadmium pollution of the food and water supply.

Jim Crow: A black person Segregating and suppressing black people (derogatory).

Jingle mail: Sending back the keys to the mortgage company when the occupants can no longer make payments on their home.

Joystick: A multidirectional pointing device used in computer mainly for playing computer games and computer aided data applications

Judicial Review: The power of the judiciary to review statutes or administrative acts and determine their constitutionality. In India any legislation can be subjected to judicial Review. In USA, the Supreme Court enjoys the power of Judicial Review. But in England, the judiciary has no power to review the laws made by Parliament.

Juggernaut: The Idol of Lord Krishna at the temple of Puri, Orissa, is dragged in procession in an enormous chariot at the annual car festival. It is now used to mean a large, powerful and overwhelming force or institution.

Jukebox: A machine which automatically plays selected records when coins are inserted. Optical or magnetic storage discs are used in this system and the machine chooses the relevant disc automatically on user's request.

Juvenile Delinquency: Crimes or breach of law committed by persons

below the age of legal adulthood, 18 years in most countries. In most of the countries special courts and correctional institutions are established to handle juvenile delinquents.

Kaleidoscope: A small covered glass tube in which you can see beautiful colours and designs. It works on the principle of multiple reflection.

Kamikaze: A type of Japanese pilots and aircrafts used for suicide missions during World War II. The kamikaze pilots were specially trained to dive aircrafts loaded with explosives to targets.

Kaolin: A type of fine white clay used in pharmacy for making ointments and for coating tablets

Karaoke: Recorded music of popular songs without the singer's voice or vocals. People use karaoke cds or vcds to accompany their own performance of a song. In Japanese Karaoke is an empty orchestra.

Kawasaki Disease: A type of disease commonly affecting children below 2 years. It is named after Tomisaku Kawasaki, who first described it. Prolonged high fever, redness of eyes, sore throat, cracked and bleeding lips, red rashes in body etc are the main symptoms. This will create damage to heart and eventually lead to death. Though it has occurred worldwide, it is most common in Japan.

Keratotomy: The surgical removal of a part or all of the cornea.

Kharif: In India and Pakistan, a crop harvested at the end of autumn.

Kitchen police: Soldiers detailed to assist the cooks in an army kitchen.

Koi: an ornamental fish which has gained popularity across Asia. Fish con-

Two Tourists for Every Resident

About 10 million visitors come to Singapore every year, that is two for every resident. Singapore's Changi International Airport is connected to more than 180 cities around the world.

disease destroys brain cells, affects body movements and mental activities and results in death.

Hybrid Bills: Hybrid bills are public bills which may in certain respects affect private interest. In Britain, there is separate procedure for passing this legislation.

Hydrodynamics: The mathematical study of the forces, energy and pressure of liquid in motion.

Hydrography: The science of water measurements of the earth with special reference to their use for navigation.

Hydropathy: The cure of disease by the internal and external use of water.

Hyperbole: Exaggerated statement used for emphasis. Eg. A horsel. A Horse! My kingdom for a Horse! (William Shakespeare).

Hypochondria: Morbid anxiety about health or imaginary illness.

Hydroponics: The technique of growing plants and agricultural crops without soil. They are planted directly in water containing dissolved nutrients.

Hypertext: System of organising information with links to other related documents.

Iconography: Teaching with aid of pictures and models.

Idolatry: Worship of idol as if it were God. Idolatry is a most common form of worship in Hinduism whereas Islam and Christianity prohibit it.

Iglloo: The shelter of Eskimo built by snow, earth or stone.

Impeachment: Accusation and Prosecution of the Head of the state or high public officials on serious charges like treason, wrongdoing, crime, scandal, violation of constitution etc. In most of

the countries the parliament enjoys the power to impeach.

Imperial Conferences: Meetings between British government and representatives of the self-governing dominions to discuss questions of common interest. Held between 1907 and 1937.

Impressionism: French art movement that flourished from the late 1860s to 1880s. Name derived from Monet's painting Impression: Sunrise.

Inactive money (Idle money): That portion of the total stock of money or money supply (currency plus bank deposits) in existence at any one time which is not being used to finance current transactions or being lent out on the money market.

Inbreeding: Mating between closely related individuals. Also, self fertilization in plants.

Informercial: Advertisements in visual media which are blend of information and commercial

Infotainment: Programmes in visual media that are informative but presented in an entertaining manner.

Inhibition: A behaviour which is marked by conscious or unconscious wish to avoid taking action because something unpleasant or immoral may happen.

Innuendo: Indirect or subtle implication, usually unpleasant. Eg. I will be delighted to attend his funeral.

Irony: Saying one thing but meaning the opposite. Eg. For Brutus is an honourable man (William Shakespeare).

ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network. Basically a way to move more data over existing regular phone lines. It is a digital communications platform

27 m. Children Born in India Every Year

India has the world's highest number of births, with 27 m. children born every year. There are 927 females for every 1000 males in India compared to the worldwide average of 1050 females.

Mandamus: Mandamus means 'We Command You'. It is a writ of a most extensive nature, issued by Supreme Court or High Courts to enforce performance of public duties.

Manicure: Cosmetic care and treatment of hands and finger nails, which involves cutting and sometimes painting of nails and softening of skin.

Marasmus: Severe deficiency of protein, carbohydrate and fat in children.

Marshal: An officer of the highest military rank or a military commander. An officer appointed to help the speaker of legislatures to maintain law and order.

Maverick: A person who thinks and acts in an independent and different way creating some peculiarity of his own.

Melodrama: Sensational dramatic piece with violent appeals to emotions

Mercator Map: The map projection named after Gerardus Mercator, the Flemish inventor, in which the globe is projected onto a cylinder. Mercator's first world map appeared in 1538.

Meta Search Engine: An internet search engine which simultaneously search other search engines and combines the results from them.

Middle distance: The space between the foreground and the the background in a picture.

Minamata Disease: Disease caused by mercury poisoning. Minamata is a city in Japan where a chemical plant had been dumping organic mercury for years. This toxic metal gradually get into the food chain and caused terrible paralytical diseases and genitic disorders in the local people.

Mistletoe: A plant that grows as a para-

site on the trunks and branches of trees.

Mistress: A woman who provides sexual satisfaction and companionship to a man who is married or not. The relationship is normally long and the woman gets financial support and a place to live in return.

Mitre Square: a carpenter's square with a blade set at 45° or at an adjustable angle.

Mixed Economy: An economy which contains elements of both private and state enterprise.

MODEM: A device linking a computer system and a telephone line so that data can be transmitted at high speeds from one computer to another. A MODEM converts analog data to digital and vice versa. The word MODEM was coined by combining Modulator and Demodulator.

Momnesia: A pattern of mental confusion and forgetfulness that characterises a mother's first year after giving birth.

Money Market: The financial institutions that deal in short-term securities and loans, gold and foreign exchange.

Mongolism: A congenital defect (also called Down's syndrome) in which a child is mentally retarded and has slanted eyes, a broad short face, weak muscles and stubby fingers.

Monopoly: A market situation in which a single seller controls the entire output of a particular good or service.

Monopsony: The situation in which there is only a single buyer in a market.

Montage: The art of forming pictures by collation of different elements. It is a technique of editing to emphasize a point by either juxtaposing or

To Kill Malaria

Huge donations from the Gates Foundation and the World Bank of \$ 3 b. to eradicate malaria by 2015. One million people die of them in Africa

seurs treasure these domesticated varieties of the common carp and liken it to a moving work of art. Koi breeding began in Japan.

Kulak: The zamindar class in Russia.

Kwashiorkor: Severe protein deficiency in children under five years.

Labour-Intensive: A process or product is called labour-intensive if it is proportionately more labour in its production than the other factors of production.

Laissez-faire: The principle of non-intervention of government in economic affairs.

Lamaism: Buddhism practised in Tibet and Mongolia. It is also known as Tibetan Buddhism.

Lampoon: A piece of writing, poem, cartooning etc. which criticises satirically or in an amusing way a famous person or organisation.

Light Year: Distance travelled by light in one year - 9.4607 million million k.m.

Limnology: The study of freshwater life.

Liposuction: Removal of the abnormal deposition of fat in a particular area of the body.

Litotes: An ironical understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its opposite. Eg. This is a small problem.

Lobbying: The practice of influencing the members of legislatures by frequently visiting their lobby and by bribery, promise of reward, intimidation or other dishonest means.

Locus Standi: The right of a petitioner against a private, provisional order or hybrid bill or special procedure order to be heard upon his petition. A petitioner has

locus standi when his interest is directly hit by the bill, if passed. It justifies the right to intervene or the right to be heard.

Lysol: A general purpose disinfectant. It is most commonly used in laboratories for sterilising surgical instruments, floor and furniture.

Lynching: Torture killing of victims by a violent mob. The term derived from Charles Lynch of Virginia, in USA, who was the leader of a self proclaimed court which punished supporters of Britain during the American war of Independence. Now the term is used to denote lynching associated with racist bigotry.

Machiavellian: Using clever and dishonest methods to deceive people in order to wield or maintain power or authority.

Mafia: A criminal organisation that began as a secret society in 13th century Sicily. Landowners employed the Mafia to manage their estates. It became incredibly powerful and practically ruled Sicily. In the 20th century it was taken to US by migrants, and is known as Coas Nostra.

Mail Merge: The process of linking a document or letter with a required datafile in such a way that different people will get letters with appropriate details.

Malapropism: Wrong use of one word instead of another word because they sound similar to each other. It derives its name from a character Mrs. Malaprop in Sheridan's "Rivals". She misused words which sounded alike. Eg. It is a wolf in a cheap clothing. My sister has extra century perception.

Mainframe Computer: Fastest and high capacity computer with huge memory which permits a large number of users simultaneously.

Herpes from Sumo

Scientists say that Japan's Sumo wrestlers are vulnerable to a more virulent strain of a herpes skin virus, contracted through grappling opponents.

government officials and others in order to influence public opinion.

Nickelodeon: Juke box or a machine which automatically plays a selected music when a coin is inserted.

Ninja loans: No Income, No Job, No Assets.

Nomophobia: The fear of being out of mobile phone contact.

Nonebrity: A person who enjoys celebrity status despite having done nothing to merit it.

Nova: Star that suddenly flares up to many times its normal brilliancies and then fades back to obscurity.

Numerology: The study of numbers, study of the date and year of one's birth to determine their influence on one's future life.

Nystagmus: Persistent involuntary movements of the eyes.

Obesity: The condition of being overweight due to excess accumulation of fat in the body.

Oenology: The study of wines.

Optical Character Recognition: The technique of converting text from paper to a form which computer can use and manipulate such as ASCII codes. Images from pages of books, magazines, newspapers etc can be converted using OCR and fed directly into a computer file.

Optical Scanner: A type of scanner which can read printed text or illustrations and convert the same into a form the computer can use.

Orange Day (Orangeman's Day): July 12, a public holiday in N. Ireland. Protestants celebrate it as the anniversary of the battles of the Boyne and of Aughrim, both in the 17th century.

Origami: The art of folding paper into different patterns and decorative objects. It was originated in China but later flourished and became a popular art form in Japan.

Orthography: The art of correct spelling

Osteomalacia: Softening of the bones because of a deficiency of vitamin D or of calcium.

Outsourcing: The system of contracting information technology related jobs like translation, transcription, digitisation, data conversion, software development, call centre services etc to outside agencies. The work may be done by agencies within the country or outside.

Oxford Movement: A movement within the Church of England that sought to link the Anglican Church more closely to the Roman Catholic Church. Originated at Oxford University in 1833.

Oxymoron: Figure of speech in which opposites are combined for effect. Eg. His honour rooted in dishonour and faith unfaithful kept him falsely true (Alfred Lord Tennyson).

P/E Ratio: Price/earning ratio of a company is calculated by dividing the market price per share by the earnings per share of the company.

Pacemaker: An electrical device powered by a battery, used by people with certain heart diseases which prevent the heart from beating regularly. The pacemaker sends out electrical impulses which give a regular heartbeat.

Paedophilia: Sexual desire of an adult, usually a male, towards a child.

Palindrome: Word or group of words that reads the same backwards as forwards. The longest word among

European Union and India

European Union, the world's largest economic power and trading bloc, is trading partner. It is also the single largest source of FDI.

images or showing contrasting scenes in sequence.

Moore's Law: A law based on the prediction by Gordon Moore, Intel Corporation's co-founder. In 1965 Moore predicted that the number of transistors per chip would double every year for the next ten years. It was proved very accurate and became popular as Moore's law.

Moot court: a mock court where hypothetical cases are tried for the training of law students.

Moratorium: Temporarily stopping of an activity or postponement of the time for payment of debts or financial obligations.

Morphology: The science that deals with form and structure without regard to function.

Motherboard: Printed circuit board used in computer. It contains the central processing unit, other processors, device controllers and expansion slots.

Mother's Day: The second Sunday of May in the USA, when mothers are remembered.

Mountain dew: Illegally distilled spirits.

Mustard gas: Dichlorodiethyl sulphide - an oily liquid that has been used as a 'war gas'.

Mycology: The study of fungi and fungus diseases.

Myology: The study of muscles.

Myopia: A visual defect in which a person can see nearby objects clearly, but distant vision is blurred. It is also called shortsightedness.

Myrmecology: The study of ants.

Mysticism: Attainment of knowledge

beyond sensory perception and the unification of mind with the ultimate truth. Mystics are detached from the physical world and engaged in study and contemplation. Hinduism and Buddhism were the earliest religions in the world to develop and practice mysticism.

Nanotechnology: The science which aims to create molecule based computer chips and other devices that are thousands of times smaller than the existing technologies.

Narrowcasting: Producing and disseminating programmes for a specialised audience.

National Debt: The total outstanding borrowing of the central government exchequer.

National Income: A measure of the money value of the total flow of goods and services produced in an economy over a specified period of time.

Nativity Play: a play which tells the story of Jesus Christ.

Natural Gas: Gas found underground. It is used as a fuel.

Natural Wastage: Reducing the number of workers by not replacing those who leave the organisation.

Netiquette: The etiquette rules applicable to messages posted in online services especially in internet news groups. It helps to maintain civility and adherence to electronic rules relevant to mail communication in the internet.

Netizen: A new term coined by linking the terms Internet and Citizen. In the modern age of information technology, any citizen who regularly uses the internet can be called a Netizen.

Newspeak: Use of deceptive talk by

The World's Sea Water

The Pacific Ocean (area: 166,240,000 sq.km.) is more than 25 per cent larger than the earth's entire land area. More than 70 p.c. of the planet's surface is occupied by the oceans.

expenses of the former rulers of erstwhile Indian states and their families. This was abolished in 1971.

Proportional Representation: An electoral system designed to secure the representation of parties proportionate to their voting strength. This system is deliberately designed to ensure representation of all political sections.

Proportional Tax: A tax which is levied at the same rate, at all income levels.

Pseudonym: A name which a person such as a writer uses instead of their real name especially on their work.

Quisling: Traitor, ie, a person who helps the enemy that has taken control of his country.

Rabi: A crop harvested in India and Pakistan at the beginning of spring.

Radio Astronomy: The study of heavenly bodies by the reception and analysis of the radio frequency electro-magnetic radiations which they emit or reflect.

Radiobiology: The branch of biology which deals with the effects of radiations on living organisms.

Ramsar Convention: An international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wetlands.

Realism: A term used with reference to a form of literature depicting actual life and representing universal human passions.

Recession: A downturn in the business cycle characterized by two successive quarters of negative rates of growth in the real GNP.

Recortadores Bullfight: Bullfight in which the men try to dodge bulls without cape or sword. The animals are not killed in this ancient tradition.

Rehydration Therapy : A type of treatment for dehydration by giving fluids with salt and glucose.

Renal Failure : The reduction of ability of the kidneys to filter waste from the blood and excrete those in urine.

Rhesus (Rh) Factor: A complex substance present on the surface of red blood cells in most people. People with the Rh factor are described as Rh-positive and those without Rh-negative.

Romanticism: The term is characterised by the qualities of remoteness, resolution, disillusionment, passion, divine unrest, melancholy, idealization and all embracing power of the imagination.

Robotics: The study of artificial intelligence and robot construction.

Routing: It is a crucial process in internet by which 'packet' of data is moved from source to destination.

Salpingectomy: The surgical removal of a Fallopian tube.

Sanskritisation: Process in which people of a lower caste change their customs, rituals, ideology and way of life in the direction of the high class.

Schizophrenia: A severe form of psychosis characterised by mental disorders and behavioural eccentricities like introversion, disassociation, inability to distinguish reality from unreality, delusions etc.

Selenology: The scientific study of moon, its nature, origin, movements etc.

Semeiology: The study of signs and sign language.

Services: Consumer or producer goods which are mainly intangible and non-storable.

A Million-pound Note

A bank note with a face value of £ 1 m. fetched £ 78,300 at a Lond 08. The note was issued by Bank of England in connection with the 1st WWII. Eight such notes were issued. They were valid for six weeks.

lindromes is 'Malayalam'. Refer, level, adam etc. are also palindromes.

Paradox: a situation, fact or statement which seems difficult to understand because it contains two opposite facts or characteristics. Eg. I am a liar. A Roman id, all Romans are liars.

Parapraxis: Psychological term denoting a blunder, fault, slip of tongue, lapse of memory or misplacement of an article.

Patent Log (also called screw log, ffrail log): Instrument that helps measure the speed of and distance travelled by a vessel.

Pedicure: Cosmetic care and treatment of feet which involves cutting and sometimes painting of nails and softening of skin.

Penology: Study of punishment and prison management.

Per capita income: The total income of a group divided by the number of people in the group.

Personal property: (Legal) Temporary or movable property as distinguished from real property.

Peter's Map: Projection or map made by Arno Peters, which has equal areas and equal representation, and shows countries in their relative sizes.

PG: (Parental Guidance) Film rating equivalent to the former 'A' rating.

PH: (potential of Hydrogen) a standard measure of the alkalinity or acidity of any fluid.

Phthisiology: The scientific study of tuberculosis.

Physiognomy: The art of judging character from physical appearance, especially that of face.

Pieta: Painting or sculpture showing

the dead Christ in the lap of the Virgin Mary.

Platonic: Relationship or emotion which is very affectionate but not sexual.

Play Therapy: A method of treatment which utilizes the child's play as a medium for expression and communication between the patient and therapist.

Plagiarism: The act of illegally copying and using another person's writings, ideas, inventions etc. and presenting it as one's own.

Plismoll mark: A set of lines on the hull of a merchant ship to indicate the depth to which it may be loaded. Also called 'load line'. The M.P. Samuel Plismoll supported the Merchant Shipping Act.

Poison pill: a measure to prevent the take over of a corporation by making the acquisition too expensive.

Pomology: The science that deals with fruits and fruit growing.

Pornography: Writing, painting, or photography describing sex in such away to arouse basic instincts and excite impressionable minds. It is intended only to arouse sexual desire and normally have no artistic value.

Portfolio: The collection of securities held by an investor.

Pool: An American form of billiards played on a table 1.4 x 2.7 m. with six pockets.

Primary Colours: The colours from which all other colours are made up. These are blue, yellow and red.

Privy Purse: Allowance from the public revenue for the private or personal use of the monarch or the sovereign. In India a sum was fixed by the government for the

Who are Septembrists?

A Septembrist is a person who took part in the September massacre, the massacre of Royalists in Paris during the French Revolution. The killing occurred from September 2 to 6, 1792.

with broad head and large feet, orange-brown and white in look. It was originally used to find and rescue travellers trapped in mountain snow in the St. Bernard passes in the Alps.

St. Elmo's Fire: An electrical discharge that creates a glow around the tip of a church spire, ship's mast etc, especially in bad weather.

St. Swithin's Day: The feast day of Saint Swithin, former Bishop of Winchester on July 15. It is believed that, if it rains on this day it will rain for 40 days and if it doesn't, the next 40 days would be dry.

St. Vitus's Dance: A type of nervous disorder that causes rapid involuntary movements of limbs or facial muscles.

Straight Time: The number of working hours fixed as a standard for a given work period.

Sulphonamides: A group of drugs, which, when they were introduced in the 1930's provided the first effective treatment for a number of bacterial diseases.

Supergiant: The largest and most luminous type of star.

Tall Poppy Syndrome: A malicious tendency to tarnish those who are successful in life.

Tapestry: The art of creating patterns or pictures by sewing or weaving different coloured threads on a special thick hand woven fabric.

Tautology: The unnecessary and often unintentional use of two words to express the same meaning.

Tax Avoidance: Arranging one's financial affairs within the law so as to minimize taxation liabilities.

Tax Evasion: Failing to meet actual tax liabilities.

Teleology: The doctrine or belief that everything, every development and event, has a special purpose or use.

Televangelism: The preaching of evangelism on television for religious propagation or raising money for religious purposes.

Tennis elbow: A condition caused by inflammation around the epicondyle on the outer side of the elbow which results in pain and tenderness.

Terms of Trade: The ratio of the index of export prices to the index of import prices.

Test Tube Baby creation: The technique of in-vitro fertilisation and in-vitro development followed by the embryo-transfer in the uterus of a normal woman to start the development, finally leading to normal birth.

Thalidomide: A drug which was earlier used to help people relax or sleep, which was later found to cause genetic deformities. It creates damage to babies inside the womb by stopping the development of their arms and legs, when it is taken by their mothers.

Tomboy: a girl who dresses like a boy, and likes physical activities that boys usually indulge in.

Tongue-twister: a phrase or sentence that is intended to be difficult to say, especially when repeated quickly.

Topiary: The art of cutting and trimming of bushes into attractive and ornamental shapes like animals and birds.

Totalitarianism: Political system which totally controls every aspect of life in a given society.

Tourette's Syndrome: A rare disease affecting the brain in which the patient

Few Divorces

When marriage rate is low, partners often separate without the formality of d
Jamaica, where divorce rate is 0.44 per 1000. Guatemala (0.12), Belize (0.17),
golia (0.28) are countries with the lowest divorce rates.

consumed at the same time as they are produced.

'Shangri La' Dialogue: Annual dialogue in Singapore on Asian security, sponsored by the International Institute of Strategic studies, London.

Shibboleth: A practice of identifying the members of a community or a clan and their social and regional origin.

Silent Majority: A group, held to represent the majority of a population, that doesn't normally express its views but is taken to support the status quo.

Silicon Valley: Santa Clara Valley region of Northern California in USA. This area became popular worldwide due to its high concentration of microprocessor technology based industries and institutions.

Sin Bin: A place for players, to wait at the side of a playing area where they have been sent off temporarily for breaking some rules.

Sixth Sense: a power of perception thought of as a sense in addition to the five senses. It is intuitive power.

Social networking: Using Web sites such as Facebook.

Soft-currency: A currency whose exchange rate is tending to fall because of persistent balance of payments deficits or because of the building up of speculative selling of the currency in expectation of a change in its exchange rate.

Soft Diet: Easily digestible solid diet having minimum residue.

Soft-loan: A loan bearing either no rate of interest or an interest rate which is below the true cost of the capital lent.

Solar Eclipse: Blotting out of the Sun by the Moon; to that the Moon is directly

between the Earth and the Sun.

Sonnet: A poem of 14 lines, arranged in a particular pattern of rhyme, each line having normally 10 syllables.

Sovereign Wealth Fund: An investment fund owned by a government.

Specie Points: The limits between which the exchange rate between two currencies on the gold standard fluctuates.

Speculation: Buying and selling with a view to buying and selling at a profit later when prices have changed.

Spoonerism: Ludicrous involuntary transposition of sounds of spoken words such as "snowing leopard" for "loving Shepherd".

Spurious medicines: In India both counterfeit and fake drugs are described as spurious medicines. Counterfeit medicine has no active ingredient, or it may be an expired drug. A fake drug may not resemble the original in any way.

Stagflation: Stagnant growth and rising inflation.

Stolport: An airport designed for STOL (short take off and landing) aircraft.

St. John's Wort: Any of the several shrubs usually having yellow five petalled flowers. These flowers are believed to bloom on the twenty fourth of June, on the feast of St. John the Baptist.

St. Agnes Eve: The night of the twentieth of January. It is traditionally believed that girls going to bed in this day after following certain rites may dream her future husband.

St. Anthony's Fire: A common name for an inflamed skin condition once thought to be Erysipelas, but now known to be a symptom of ergotism.

St. Bernard's Dog: A type of big dog

Breast Cancer: one in 22 Women

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among urban women in India, with one out of 22 having a lifetime risk, and the figures are increasing. If not contained, it will match the western figures of one in eight women.

Website: A place where information is put in the internet. Websites are created on the Server computer of the Internet and each website has a unique address called URL (see URL)

Westerlies: The chief winds blowing between 30° and 70° latitude.

Wolf Syndrome: A disorder with symptoms of mental retardation, hyponia, cleft lip and coloboma. This is caused by the partial deletion of short arm of chromosome - 4.

WWW: World Wide Web. It is a set of protocols that give interactive access to huge content of Internet to its users. Information in the internet is linked by a software technique called hypertext.

Canadu: A concept first visualised by Theodor Holm Nelson to integrate the library collections and databases worldwide into a single digital system. Conceived in 1970's, first it was considered as an utopian idea, but with the origin of internet, the concept has been utilised partially.

X-ray stars: Stars that emit x-rays, discovered by instruments carried outside the earth's atmosphere by space probes.

Yahoo: An index based popular search engine in the internet. It uses hierarchical indexes of contents on the World Wide Web.

Yellow Journalism: That type of journalism which is sensational, scandalous, slanderous and scurrilous. The term derived from a popular comic strip, 'The Yellow Kid'.

Yom Kippur: It is a Jewish holiday - the day when sins are confessed and expiated and man and God are reconciled.

You-Tube divorce: An acrimonious

Words of all hues

Synonyms are words having the same meaning as or meaning very similar to that of another word in the same language. e.g. mix, blend and mingle are synonyms.

Antonyms are words of opposite meaning. e.g. allow-forbid, agree-contradict, esteem-contempt, zealous-slothful.

Homonyms are sets of words that sound alike but have no other connection, e.g. alter and altar; ascent and assent

Heteronyms are two or more words spelled alike but pronounced differently and having no connection whatever in meaning. e.g. bow (a nod, an instrument to shoot arrows), wind (air in motion, to turn).

break-up where a spouse even airs her former partner's dirty laundry on the video-sharing portal.

Zeugma: Using the same word, in different senses, to govern two or more other words. Eg. He took his leave and my umbrella.

Zero Hour: The time set for the beginning of an attack or other military operation; any crucial or decisive moment.

Ziggurat: Pyramidal tower in ancient Mesopotamia, surmounted by a temple and with stages or a continuous ramp to the top.

Zoogeography: The study of the distribution of animals on the surface of the globe.

Bullfighting

Bullfighting is the national spectator sport of Spain. Portugal practises mounted bullfighting in which the bulls are not killed. It is a sport in parts of France and South America.

swears, makes noises and moves in a way that they can't control.

Toxicology: The scientific study of the nature and effects of poisons, their detection and treatment.

Truck system: System in which wages are paid in goods or kind rather than money.

Tug-of-love: a situation in which one of the separated parents of a child takes care of the child, and the other parent claims the right to keep the child.

Type A personality: The state of mind and behaviour characterised by excessive drive, competitiveness, sense of time urgency, impatience, unrealistic ambition, etc.

Ugly Duckling: A person or thing thought to be worthless at the first instance but later turns to be outstandingly beautiful or highly valued.

Upload: Transferring data or program from a computer to the server in the network.

Urban mining: Reclaiming precious metals from old electronic equipment.

URL: It is a universally accepted system followed in naming a website in the Internet. eg. <http://www.manoramaonline.com>. URL is the abbreviation of Uniform Resource Locator.

USB: Abbreviation of Universal Serial Bus which denotes a standard followed in connecting external devices like mouse, modem, keyboard etc. to the computer hardware. This allows users to easily add new devices to the existing system without an adapter card or shut down.

Valentine's Day: A festival of romance and affection, celebrated worldwide on February 14, an occasion to send special

greetings to sweethearts or other loved ones.

Velcro: Trade name for a fabric fastener invented by Georges de Mestral. There are two nylon strips, one covered with hooks and other with loops into which the hooks fit when the two are pressed together.

Ventriloquism: The art of producing voice sounds so that they seem to come from a different source or place at distance from the speaker.

Vernacular Press: Also called Language Press, it denotes media products like newspapers and magazines published in a native language. It is a derogatory term first used by the British to differentiate the English newspapers and magazines from those of Indian languages which they considered inferior.

Verruca: Medical term for a wart, a small growth formed on the skin and caused by a virus.

Victimless crime: A statutory crime such as gambling or prostitution.

Video Conferencing: Technology in which video, audio and computer signals from different locations are linked in such a way that different people can see and interact at the same time, as if in a conference room.

VTOL (vertical take-off and landing): A fixed-wing aeroplane that can take off and land without using a runway.

Voice-over: A piece of narration in a broadcast not accompanied by an image of the speaker.

Watermark: A design applied to paper when it is made. It can be seen by holding the paper up to the light. Currency notes and postage stamps carry a watermark to prevent forgery.

Marry on a Saturday

Saturday is the favoured day for weddings in England. August is the month when most weddings are held. January seems to be the least popular.

Womens University, Pune. Now this is known as SNDT Women's University, Mumbai (1916)

First women's college in India - Bethune College, Calcutta (1879)

First woman law graduate in India - Cornelia Sorabji, Calcutta (1894)

First deaf and dumb woman to be a graduate - Helen Keller, Radcliffe College (1904)

Cinema

First Indian to win Dadasaheb Phalke Award - Devika Rani (1970)

First talkie movie in the world - "The Jazz Singer" (1927)

First Oscar winner for the Best Actor - Emil Jannings (1928)

First black actor to win an Oscar in a major category - Sidney Poitier.



Devika Rani

It was for his role in the film, "Lilies of the Field" (1964)

First Indian Oscar winner - Bhanu Athaiya, For Best Costume Design for the film 'Gandhi' (1982)

First Indian Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film - *Mother India* (1957)

First Oscar winner for Best Actress - Janet Gaynor, for her total work (1928)

First black actress to win an Oscar - Hattie McDaniel. She won the Best Supporting Actress award for her role as Mammy in "Gone with the Wind" (1939)

First Lady of the Indian Screen- Devika Rani Roerich

First American woman film director - Alice Guy Blache (1896)

Medicine

First direct transfusion of blood performed by Richard Lower, English physician and physiologist (1666)

First person to be executed by the guillotine - Nicolas J. Pelletier (1792)

First sex-change operation in the world - George (Christine) Jorgenson (1952)

First human heart transplant was performed by - Dr. Christian Barnard (1967)

First human heart transplant recipient. - Louis Washkansky. He lived only 18 days with the new heart (1967)

First recipient of a permanent artificial heart - Barney Clark (1982)

First artificial pacemaker implant into a human - By a Swedish team using a pacemaker designed by Rune Elmquist. The patient was Arne Larsson (1958)

First test tube baby - Louise Brown. In Lancashire, England. Patrick Christopher Steptoe, English obstetrician, together with Robert Edwards, biologist, succeeded in this first human in vitro fertilization (1978)

First Indian Test tube baby - Harsha, at KEM hospital Mumbai. Indira Hinduja was the doctor (1986)

Parkinson's disease was first described by - James Parkinson, British neurologist (1817)

Hodgkin's disease was first recognized by - Thomas Hodgkin, English physician. He was also the first person to stress the importance of post mortem (1832)

DNA finger printing was first developed

Largest Army

China has the largest armed forces - 2,255,000 - in the world, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. The US - 1,506,757 - is in the second place. India - 1,316,000 - in the third place.

300 Firsts

Awards

First Nobel Prize winner for Literature - Sully Prudhomme, France (1901)

First Nobel Prize winner for Peace - Jean Henri Dunant, Switzerland & Frederic Passy, France (1901)

First Nobel Prize winner for Economics - Ragnar Frisch, Norway & Jan Tinbergen, Netherlands (1969)

First person to win two Nobel Prizes - Marie Sklodowska Curie (first in Physics, 1903 and the second in Chemistry, 1911)

First black to receive the Nobel Peace Prize - Ralph Bunche (1950)

First Indian to win Nobel Prize in Literature - Rabindranath Tagore. He was also the first Asian to get the prize (1913)

First Indian to win Booker Prize - Arundhati Roy. For 'The God of Small Things' (1997)

First Indians to win Bharat Ratna - Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, C. Rajagopalachari, and Dr. C.V. Raman (1954)

First woman Nobel Prize winner - Marie Sklodowska Curie, Physics. She is the first to win Physics Nobel (1903).

First woman Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry - Marie Sklodowska Curie (1911)

First woman Mother and daughter to win Nobel prize - Marie Sklodowska Curie (1903) and daughter Irene Joliot Curie (1935)

First woman Nobel Prize winner for Peace - Baroness Bertha Sophie Felicita von Suttner (1905)

First woman Nobel Prize winner for Literature - Selma Ottilia Lovisa Lagerlof (1909)

First woman from India to win a Nobel Prize - Mother Teresa, Peace Prize (1979)

First American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Peace - Jane Addams, social worker (1931)

First Black woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature - Toni Morrison (1993)

First Muslim woman to win a Nobel Prize - Shirin Ebadi (2003)

First Black woman to win a Pulitzer prize - Gwendolyn Brooks (1950)

Woman selected as Time magazine's "Man of the Year" - Wallis Warfield Simpson (1936)

First Black woman to win an Oscar for Best Actress - Halle Berry (2002)

First woman to win the Jnanpith - Ashapura Devi (1976)

First woman to receive Bharat Ratna - Indira Gandhi (1971)

First Indian woman to win a Pulitzer Prize - Jhumpa Lahiri (2000)

First woman Pulitzer Winner for fiction - Edith Wharton, American novelist for "The Age of Innocence" (1921)

Education

First Education Minister of free India - Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad

First women's university in India - Indian

A Family Rules Two Countries

The Braganza family descended from Alfonso, the illegitimate son of John I, became the ruling dynasty of two countries - Portugal (1640-1910) and Brazil (1822-89). Manuel II was the last king of Portugal and Pedro II (1831-89) of Brazil.

Cleveland. He is also the first US President married inside the White House in 1886 (1892)

First US President to reside in the White House - John Adams. He was the first Vice President and the second President (1797)

First US President to have a telephone in the White House - Rutherford B. Hayes

First and only bachelor to be elected US President - James Buchanan

First US President to make a radio broadcast - Calvin Coolidge

First US President to be a Rhodes Scholar - Bill Clinton

First US Vice President to assume Presidency upon the death of the President - John Tyler (1841)



Bill Clinton

First unelected US Vice President to become President - Gerald R. Ford (1974)

First American Indian to become a US Senator - Charles Curtis (1907)

First openly gay U.S. Congressperson - Barney Frank (1981)

First Jewish to become US Secretary of State - Henry Kissinger (1973)

First Black to become US secretary of state - Colin Powell (2000)

First black Secretary General of the United Nations - Kofi Annan (1987)

First Secretary General of United Nations - Trygve Lie, Norway (1946)

First Prime Minister of UK - Robert Walpole (1721)

First English Monarch to live in Buckingham Palace - Queen Victoria (1837)

First British Monarch to have a televised coronation - Elizabeth II (1953)

First Prime Minister of Canada - Sir John Alexander McDonald (1867)

First Tsar of Russia - Ivan IV, the Terrible (1547)

First reigning queen of England - Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) (1553)



Indira Gandhi

First Indian Prime Minister to be voted out of office - Indira Gandhi, when the Indian National Congress lost to the Janata Party (1977)

First Non Congress government in India - Janata Party Government with Morarji Desai as the Prime Minister (1977-1979)

First Emperor of Rome - Augustus (27 BC)

First Prime Minister of Canada - Sir John A. Macdonald (1867)

First Black President of South Africa - Nelson Mandela (1994)

First country to implement 'right to vote' for women (female suffrage) - New Zealand (1893)

First great woman in recorded history - Hatshepsut (1479 BC)

First woman ruler of India - Razia Sultana. She is the first woman ruler in South Asia (1236)

First woman minister in India - Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Uttar Pradesh (1937)

First woman foreign secretary of India - Chokila Iyer (2001)

First nun to become a captain in the US Air Force - Mary Hargrafen (Sister Mary Carl) (1978)

First Policewoman in the US - Alice Stebbins

A President of Records

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to speak on television, to ride in a car, and the first to get a Nobel Peace Prize. He was the only President to be sworn in for a 4

by - Prof. Alec Jeffreys, UK (1984)
 1st official recognition of AIDS in the world - Centers for Disease Control issued a press release describing five cases in Los Angeles, USA (1981)
 1st to clone an AIDS virus and work out its anatomy - Chinese American Flossie Wong Staal (1985)
 1st to qualify as a medical doctor in Europe - Dr. Maria Montessori, University of Rome, Italy (1896)
 1st Indian lady doctor - Kadambani Ganguly (1886)
 1st woman to receive medical degree in US - Elizabeth Blackwell (1849)
 1st black woman to study and work as a professionally trained nurse - Mary Eliza Mahoney (1879)

1st woman to receive an artificial heart (Jarvik VII) - Mary Lund (1986)

1st woman President of the World Health Assembly of WHO - Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India (1950)



Amrit Kaur

Literature, Media

1st magazine printed in the world - 'Journal of the Learned' (Journal des Sçavans) published in Paris (1665)
 1st inventor of the first sign language alphabet for the use of the deaf - George Dalgarno, Scottish school teacher (1680)
 1st alphabetical encyclopedia - Technical Lexicon. Compiled by John Harris (1704)
 1st American novel - The Power of Sympathy by William Hill Brown (1789)
 1st incident of a murder shown live on

television - Jack Ruby killing Lee Harvey Oswald (1963)

1st dictionary in the world - 'Explaining Words, Analysing Characters' (Chinese) Compiled by Hsueh Shen (C 100 AD)
 1st Thesaurus in the world - Chinese 'Literary Approximate' (C 800 BC)
 1st Encyclopaedia in the world - 'Antiquities of Things Human and Divine' written by Roman scholar Marcus Terentius Varro (47 BC)
 1st daily newspaper in the world - The Daily News (Acta Diurna) This is the earliest known handwritten Daily Newspaper in the world published in Rome (1st BC)
 1st printed book in the world - Diamond Sutra. This Chinese book on Buddhist scriptures is the oldest known dated printed book in the world (868 AD)
 1st novel in the world - Cyropaedia, historical Greek novel written in Corinth about the life of Cyrus (360 BC)

Government

1st US President - George Washington. He is the only unanimously elected US president (1789)
 1st US President to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C - Thomas Jefferson (1801)
 1st US president to die in office - William Henry Harrison. He also had the shortest term in office, 32 days (1841)
 1st US President to be assassinated - Abraham Lincoln. He is also the first president from the Republican Party (1865)
 1st and only US president to resign from office - Richard Nixon (1974)
 1st and only US President to win election to nonconsecutive terms - Grover

India Among the Top Five

In military ranking by Global FirePower.Com, USA, Russia, China, India and Germany occupy the top five positions.

garet Thatcher (1979 May 04)
 First woman member of a US Presidential Cabinet - Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt. (1933)

Sports

First Asian city to host Olympics - Tokyo, Japan (1964)

First Tour de France (road bicycle race) winner - Maurice Garin (1903)

First recognized boxing (fisticuffs) champion - Tim Hyer (1841)

World's first chess champion - Wilhelm Steinitz (1886)

First golf club in the world - Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers (1744)

First footballer of the Year - Sir Stanley Matthews, English footballer. He was also the first European Footballer of the Year in 1956, and the first footballer to be knighted in 1965. (1948)

First man to run a mile under 4 minutes - British athlete Sir Roger Bannister. He established this record at Iffley Road Track, Oxford in 3 minutes 59.4 seconds (1954)

First Indian Olympic team medal - Gold for Hockey. At Amsterdam beating the Netherlands (1928)

First Indian Olympic individual medal winner - K. D. Jadhav, Bronze in wrestling at Helsinki (1952)

First athlete disqualified at the Olympics for drug use - Hans-Gunnar Liljenwall at the Mexico summer Olympics (1968)

The first cricket club - Cricket club founded in Hambledon, a village in southern England (1750)

First Indian Cricket tournament -The

Bombay Triangular which later became the Bombay Quadrangular (1912)
 First Indian Cricket test match - Against England at Lord's (1932)

First Indian Cricket captain - CK Nayudu, for the tour of England (1932)

First Indian cricketer to score a century - Lala Amarnath, against England in South Bombay. He was also independent india's first test captain leading a tour of Australia in 1947-48. (1933)

First Indian cricketer to score a triple century - Virender Sehwag, against Pakistan at Multan (2004)

First Indian hat-trick in Test cricket - Harbhajan Singh, against Australia (2001)

First Indian batsman to complete 10,000 runs-Sunil Gavaskar. He was first in the world to achieve this

First Indian Tennis Grand Slam title - Mahesh Bhupathi, partnering with Japanese Rika Hiraki, in the Mixed Doubles category of the French Open (1997)

First Indian woman to appear in an Olympic final - P.T. Usha, Los Angeles Olympics (1984)

First woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal - Charlotte Cooper, UK, Tennis singles (1900)

First professional woman bullfighter - Patricia McCormick (1952)

First American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympics - Wilma Rudolph, Rome Olympics (1960 Sep 7)

First Women's Olympic marathon Champion - Joan Benoit, Los



Sehwag

Woman Shoots Down Enemy Aircraft

First woman fighter pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft - Lydia Litvyak, Soviet Lieutenant, flying a Yak -1 fighter of the women's 586th Fighter Aviation Regiment, down two German planes over Stalingrad (1942 Sept. 13)

- bins Wells. She was hired by the Los Angeles Police Department. (1910)
- First woman Air marshal in India - Padma Bandopadhyay (2002)
- First woman DGP in India - Kanchan Bhat-tacharya, Uttaranchal (2004)
- First woman union minister in India - Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Cabinet Minister, Health portfolio (1947)
- First woman state governor in the US - Nellie Tayloe Ross, Wyoming (1925)
- First woman elected to the US Congress - Jeannette Rankin, Montana (1916) (House of Representatives)
- First Black woman in US Senate - Carol Elizabeth Moseley Braun, Illinois (1992)
- First woman nominated for president of the US by a major political party - Margaret Chase Smith, Maine, at the Republican National Convention in San Francisco. (1964)
- World's first woman prime minister - Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. She is the first woman to be elected the head of state (1960)
- First woman President in the world - Isabel Peron, Argentina (1974)
- First Democratically elected woman head of state - Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland (1980)
- First woman Prime minister of Israel - Golda Meir. She is the first Jewish woman Prime Minister. (1964)
- First woman President of the Philippines - Corazon Aquino. She is the first Philippine president not to seek a second term (1986)
- First woman Prime Minister of Canada - Kim Campbell (1993)
- First woman Chancellor of Germany - Dr. Angela Merkel (2005)
- First woman Prime minister of India - Indira Gandhi (1966)
- First woman President of Chile - Michelle Bachelet (2006)
- First African elected woman head of state - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as President of Liberia (2005)
- First woman Vice presidential nominee of a major US political party - Geraldine Ferraro (1984)
- First woman to become president of UN General Assembly - Vijayalakshmi Pandit (1953)
- First woman US Secretary Of State - Madeleine Albright (1996)
- Black woman to serve as US secretary of state - Condoleezza Rice (2005)
- First woman to serve as US national security adviser - Condoleezza Rice (2001)
- US First Lady - Martha Washington (1789)
- Britain's first woman MP - Viscountess (Nancy) Astor, House of Commons (1919 Nov 28)
- First woman President of the Indian National Congress - Annie Besant (1917)
- First woman Chief minister of a state in India - Sucheta Kripalani, Uttar Pradesh (1963 - 67)
- First woman Governor of a State in India - Sarojini Naidu, United Provinces (UP) (1947- 49)
- First woman Speaker of the US House of Representatives - Nancy Pelosi (2007)
- First woman Deputy chairman of Indian Rajya Sabha - Violet Alva (1962 - 69)
- First woman Prime Minister of Turkey - Tansu Ciller (1993 Jun 14)
- Woman Prime minister of Britain - Mar-

The 'Fusion Man'

Swiss adventurer Yves Rossy completed a 35-km journey over one of the world's busiest shipping lanes on Sept. 26, 2008 to make history by flying across the English Channel from France using only a jet powered wing. He calls himself 'Fusion Man'.

- gether - Andrej & Marija Stremfelj, Slovenia. Marija was also the first Slovenian woman to climb Everest (1990)
- First son of a mountaineer to climb the Everest - Peter Hillary, New Zealand (1990)
- First father and son to climb the Everest together - Jean Noel Roche and his son Roche Bertrand aka Zebulon (1990)
- First conquest of Everest by two brothers together - Alberto and Felix Inurategui (1992)
- First Pakistani to conquer the Everest - Nazir Sabir (2000)
- First blind person to conquer the Everest - Erik Weißenmayer, USA (2001)
- First person with only one arm to climb the Everest - American Gary Guller (2003)
- First nonstop solo flight around the world without refueling.- Steve Fossett flew the Virgin Atlantic Globalflyer around the world From Salina, Kansas. It covered 22,878 miles in 67 hrs (2005)
- First round the world solo flight - Wiley Post took a Lockheed Vega, Winnie Mae, 15,596 mi around the world in 7 days, 18 hr. (1933)
- First woman to fly solo - Bessie Coleman. She flew in an airplane her husband built of bamboo, wire and silk.(1910)
- First woman to fly solo around the world - Jerrie Mock. She made the flight in 29 days flying 22,860 miles.(1964)
- First woman to fly solo across the English Channel - Harriet Quimby, from Dover, England, to Hardelot, France, in a monoplane. She was later killed in a flying accident.(1912 April 16)
- First woman to climb Everest without bottled oxygen - Lydia Bradey of New Zealand (1988 Nov 14)
- First woman to climb from the North (Tibet) side.- Phantog, a Tibetan woman, reached the summit only a few days after Junko, becoming the second woman to summit Everest (1975 May 27)
- First European woman to climb Everest - Wanda Rutkiewicz. She was the third woman to summit Everest (1978)
- First woman to die on Everest - Hannelore Schmatz, while descending from the Summit after becoming the 4th woman to summit Everest (1979)
- First Asian woman to swim across the English Channel - Arati Saha, India (1959 Sep 29)
- First woman to climb Everest - Junko Tabei of Japan via the South East Ridge (1975 May 16)
- First Indian woman to climb Mount Everest - Bachendri Pal. She was the 5th woman in the world to achieve this (1984 May 23)
- First woman to conquer Everest twice - Santosh Yadav, India (1993 May 10)
- First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic - Amelia Earhart, from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to Ireland in 15 hrs. (1932 May)
- First woman to swim the English Channel - Gertrude Ederle, in 14 hours and 39 minutes and she broke the existing men's record. (1926 Aug 03)
- First Indian woman to swim across seven seas of the world - Bula Choudhary, India. She was the first Indian woman to cross English Channel twice.(2004)

Betty Davis

Betty Davis is the first motion picture performer to be honoured with the Life Achievement Award of the Film Institute. She was the first woman President of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the first actress to receive 10 Ac nominations (1977).

Angeles Summer Olympics (1984)
 first Indian woman to win a round at a
 Grand Slam - Nirupama Vaidyanathan
 beat Italian Gloria Pizzichini in the first
 round of the Australian Open (1998)
 Indian woman in the third round (highest
 so far) of a tennis Grand Slam event
 - Sania Mirza, Singles category of the
 Australian Open (2005 Jan)
 first woman black tennis player to win
 a singles title at Wimbledon - Althea
 Gibson (1957)
 first woman Chess grandmaster of India
 - S. Vijayalakshmi (2000)
 first Indian woman medal winner in
 Olympics - Karnam Malleswari, Bronze
 in weightlifting, Sydney (2000)
 first Indian woman to win an individual
 gold medal in Asian Games - Kamaljit
 Sandhu, Bangkok, 400 m (1970)
 first woman to win a Grand Slam - Mau-
 reene Catherine ("Little Mo") Connolly
 (1953)
 first Indian to win an individual Olympic
 Gold - Abhinav Bindra (2008)

Adventure

First man to fly solo non stop across the
 Atlantic - Charles Lindbergh (1927)
 First person to fly faster than the speed of
 sound - Charles Elwood Chuck Yeager,
 he flew a Bell X-1 rocket at 670 mph in
 level flight (1947)
 First man to reach the South Pole - Roald
 Amundsen, Norwegian explorer and
 team (1911)
 First person to swim across the English
 Channel - Matthew Webb (1875)
 First person to cross Antarctic Circle -
 James Cook (1773)
 first humans to fly - Marquis d'Arlandes

& Pilatre de Rozier. In this first manned
 balloon flight in the world they were
 airborne in a hot-air balloon for 20
 minutes in Paris at the height of 3000
 ft and travelled 7 miles (1783)
 First balloonist to fly solo nonstop
 around the world - Steve Fossett, U.S.
 He launched from Northam, West
 Australia, on June 19 and returned to
 Queensland, Australia, after 14 days,
 19 hrs. He broke three balloon records
 along the way, fastest time around the
 world, longest distance flown solo, and
 longest time flown solo (2002)
 First man to cross the Pacific Ocean in hot
 air balloon - Ben Abruzzo and team in
 the Double Eagle V (1981)
 First people to sight the North Pole
 - Roald Amundsen and his sponsor Lin-
 coln Ellsworth from the airship 'Norge'
 piloted by Umberto Nobile (1926)
 First people to reach the North Pole - Lt.
 Col. Joseph O. Fletcher and Lt. William
 P. Benedict landed their plane (1952)
 First successful conquest of Mount Everest
 - Tenzing Norgay & Sir Edmund Hill-
 ary (New Zealand) via the South-East
 Ridge Route (1953)
 First conquest of Everest via the North
 Ridge - Chinese team (1960)
 First American to conquer the Everest
 - James Whittaker (1963)
 First person to conquer the Everest twice
 - Nawang Gombu Sherpa. Both of his
 ascents were via the South east ridge
 (1965)
 First ascent of Everest without bottled
 oxygen - Peter Habeler (Austria) and
 Reinhold Messner, (Italy) via the South
 - East Ridge (1978)
 First couple to conquer the Everest to-

Woman in a Barrel

First woman to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel - Annie Edson Taylor, a schoolteacher
 from Michigan at the age of 64 years. She was the first person to do this (1901 Oct.
 24).

st American to walk in space - Edward Higgins White, Jr. (1965)

st commercial communications satellite - Early Bird, built for the communications satellite corporation (COMSAT) (1965)

st satellite designed to transmit television and high speed data communications - Telstar (1962)

st communications satellite in geosynchronous orbit - Syncom (1963)

st woman in space - Valentina Tereshkova, Russian cosmonaut, aboard Vostok - 6 (1963)

merican woman in space - Dr. Sally K. Ride, Space Shuttle Challenger (1983)

st black woman in

space - Mae Carol Jemison, aboard the Endeavor (1992)

st Indian Woman in space - Kalpana Chawla aboard Space Shuttle Columbia flight STS-87. She was a naturalized US citizen, and represented the US during the event (1997 Nov 19)

st woman to walk in space - Svetlana Savitskaya, while on Salyut - 7 (1984)

merican woman to walk in space - Kathryn D. Sullivan, Space Shuttle challenger mission (1984)

st woman space tourist - Anousheh Ansari. She was the first Iranian and first Muslim woman in space (2006)

st woman space shuttle pilot - Eileen Marie Collins. She piloted STS 63, which involved rendezvous between Discovery and space station Mir. (1995)

st woman Commander of a US space-



V. Tereshkova

craft - Eileen Marie Collins. Space Shuttle Mission STS - 93 (1999 July)

First black woman pilot - Bessie Coleman, She was killed on April 30, 1926, in a flying accident (1921)

First Indian commercial woman pilot - Durba Banerjee, Indian Airlines (1966)

First woman airbus pilot in the world - Durba Banerjee, India, Airbus A300 (1987)

First woman airline pilot - Ruth Rowland Nichols, first woman to hold three international records at the same time speed, distance, and altitude was employed by N.Y., New England Airways (1932)

First Chinese to do walk in space - Zhai Zhigang (2008)

Transport

World's first underground railway powered by steam - In London (1863)

The first electric underground railway - in London (1890)

World's first traffic lights - The gas lamps Installed in London (1868)

First automatic traffic light was invented by Garrett Morgan and first used in Cleveland, Ohio, USA (1920)

Miscellaneous

First US President's first Inaugural ceremony broadcast live on the Internet - William J. Clinton (1997)

First skyscraper in the world - Home Insurance Building, Chicago, Illinois. William LeBaron Jenny was the architect of this 10 storey, 138 ft., building (1885)

First bank in the world - Egibi bank

A Woman Administered the Oath of Office

The first and only incident of a woman administering the oath of office to an American President was when US District Judge Sarah T. Hughes swore in Lyndon B. Johnson on Air Force One on Nov. 22, 1963, soon after J.K. Kennedy was shot dead.

coronation - Queen Elizabeth II. Millions of people saw the coronation through television (1953 Jun 02)

First woman to have her baby's birth broadcast live over the Internet - Elizabeth Ann Oliver (1998)

First American woman ordained a minister by a recognized Congregational denomination - Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1853)

First woman to be an ordained Episcopal priest - Jacqueline Means (1977)

First woman consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church - Reverend Barbara C. Harris (1989)

First woman native-born American to be made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. - Elizabeth Ann Seton. She established the first American community of the Sisters of Charity, in Emmitsburg, Maryland. (1975)

First woman U.S. citizen to be made a saint - Mother Maria Frances Cabrini (1850-1917). She was born in Italy. (1946)

First woman railway engine driver in Asia - Surekha Yadav, Indian Railways (1992)

First woman rabbi in the United States - Sally Jean Priesand (1972)

First woman to appear on a US postage stamp - Queen Isabella of Spain (1893)

First Indian woman featured in a postal stamp - Meera Bai (1952)

World's first woman ambassador - Rosika Schwimmer, Hungarian ambassador to Switzerland (1918)

First Indian woman Ambassador - Vijayalakshmi Pandit, USSR (1947-49)

Published American woman writer and

Grandfather to Grandson

One of the two persons whose speculations helped Charles Darwin in formulating his theory on the origin of species was his own grandfather Erasmus Darwin, a physician noted for his radical views on biology. The other was French zoologist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck.

poet - Anne Bradstreet. Her book of poems, *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*, was published in England (1650)

First woman Publisher and postmaster in America - Mary Katherine Goddard and her widowed mother became publishers of the *Providence Gazette* newspaper and the annual *West's Almanack*. In 1775, Goddard became the first woman postmaster in the country. She was the first to print the Declaration of Independence. In 1789 Goddard opened a Baltimore bookstore, probably the first woman in America to do so.

First black woman to own her own television production company - Oprah Winfrey. She is the first black billionaire (1986)

First black woman judge - Jane Matilda Bolin, New York City (1939)

First U.S. attorney general - Janet Reno (1993)

First Indian to be the Miss World - Reita Faria (1956 Nov)



Reita Faria

First Lady of the Indian Screen

Actress Devika Rani whose mother Leela Chaudhary was a niece of P. Dadasaheb Phalke Award. re, is described as the First Lady of the Indian Screen. She is the

founded in Babylon during the period of Nebu-chadnezzar (605 - 562 BC)
 First President of ADB-Takeshi Watanabe (1966)
 First Beauty Contest in the world - Started by Cypselus, the King of the Greek City of Korinth. It continued for centuries (700 BC)
 First cloned mammal - Dolly, the lamb (1996)



Dolly

First dog show - Organized by Charles Cruft, British dog expert (1886)
 First dry dock in the world - Portsmouth, Hampshire (1495)
 First city in India to have electricity - Bangalore. It is the first city in Asia to have electricity. It was powered by the hydro electric plant situated in Shivanasamudra (1906)
 Copyright first recognized in the world - An author's copyright was first recognized in Britain by an Act of Parliament (1709)
 World's first crossword - Devised by Arthur Wynne, England (1913)

World's first television service -The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) started from Alexandra Palace with three hours of programming a day (1936)
 First Indian Sponsored TV serial - Hum Log (1984)
 World's first teletext system - Ceefax and Oracle. It were developed by the BBC and Independent Television in the UK (1973)
 First Post Office system in United States - William Godard established the first Post Office system in United States at Baltimore (1774)
 First American to be canonized as saint - Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini (1946)
 First Pope to visit Cuba - John Paul the Second (1998)
 First woman editor of a newspaper - Ann Franklin, sister of Benjamin Franklin, in the "The Newport Mercury" (1762)
 Miss America - Margaret Gorman (192)
 Black Miss America - Vanessa Williams. She relinquished her crown when nude pictures of her were published in "Penthouse" magazine (1983)
 First woman photojournalist in India - Homai Vyarawalla, Bombay Chronicle (1938)
 First Miss Universe - Armi Kuusela, Finland (1952)
 First Miss World - Kerstin Kiki Haakonson, Sweden (1951)
 First Indian to win the Miss Universe title - Sushmita Sen (1994)
 First Indian to be married in a hot air balloon - Vandana Sharma and Sunil Sharma, at SMS Grounds, Jaipur, Rajasthan (2006 Dec 31)
 First woman monarch to have a televised

Blue Baby Operation

The first 'blue baby' operation was performed by Dr. Helen Taussig and Alfred Ballock. It was the first neonatal surgical treatment for malfunctions of the heart, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, USA (1944).

BIMARU: Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh

BIMSTEC: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation

BIOS: Basic Input Output System

BIS: Bank of International Settlement; Bureau of Indian Standards

BIT: Binary Digit

BOT: Build, Operate and Transfer

BPL: Below Poverty Line

BPO: Business Process Outsourcing

bps: bytes per second

BRO: Border Roads Organisation

BSE: Bombay Stock Exchange

BSF: Border Security Force

BSNL: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

C2C: Consumer to Consumer

C-in-C: Commander-in-Chief

c.v.: Curriculum vitae

C/o: care of

CA: Chartered Accountant

CAD: Command Area Development; Computer Aided Design

CADA: Command Area Development Authority

CAG: Comptroller and Auditor General of India

CAGR: compounded annual growth rate

CAN : Calcium Ammonium Nitrate

Cantab: Cantabrigian (of Cambridge University)

CAS: Conditional Access System

CAT: Career Aptitude Test; Common Admission Test; Computerized Axial Tomography (also called CT); Computer Adaptive Test

CBDT: Central Board of Direct Taxes

CBFC: Central Board of Film Certification.

CBI : Central Bureau of Investigation

CBM: Confidence Building Measures

CBSE: Central Board of Secondary Education

CD: Compact disk; Certificate of deposit

CDAC: Centre for the Development of Advanced Computing

CEO: Chief Executive Officer

CERN: Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucleaire (European Laboratory for Nuclear Research)

cf compare / refer

CFC: Chloro Fluoro Carbon; Common Fund for Commodities

CFL: Compact Fluorescent Lamps

CFO: Chief Financial Officer

CGNS: Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools

CGPA: Cumulative Grade Point Average

CGS: Chief of General Staff; Centimetre, Gram, Second

CIA: Central Intelligence Agency

CID: Criminal Investigation Department

cif: cost, insurance and freight

CII: Confederation of Indian Industry

CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

CISCE: Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations

CITU: Centre of Indian Trade Unions

CKD: Completely Knocked Down

CMIE: Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy

CMP: Common Minimum Programme

CNN: Cable News Network

CO: Commanding Officer

COD: cash on delivery

COFEPOSA: Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act

COPRA : Consumer Protection Act

COSTFORD: Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development

Genuinely Organic

Austria is seriously on the organic road. The country has set apart 10.1 percent of its total agricultural land for growing organic crops.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

- A:** Alcoholics Anonymous
- AFI:** The Amateur Athletics Federation of India
- BC:** Atomic Biological and Chemical (Warfare); Audit Bureau of Circulations
- C:** Ante Christum (Before Christ), Alternating Current; Ashoka Chakra; Air Conditioner.
- CR:** Annual Confidential Report
- AD:** Anno Domini (in the year of our Lord)
- ADB:** Asian Development Bank
- ADC:** Aide-de-camp (help or assistant)
- AFI:** Athletics Federation of India
- AFMC:** Armed Forces Medical College
- AFP:** Agence France-Presse
- AG:** Accountant General; Adjutant General
- AI:** Artificial Intelligence; Air India
- AICTE:** All India Council for Technical Education
- AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- AIFF:** All India Football Federation
- AIIMS:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- AITUC:** All India Trade Union Congress
- AM:** Ante Meridiem (before noon); Amplitude Modulation
- Amfi:** Association of Mutual Funds of India
- ANC:** African National Congress
- ANERT:** Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology
- ANZUS:** Australia, New Zealand US (Pacific Pact Nations)
- AOC:** Air Officer Commanding
- APEC:** Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
- APM:** Administered Price Mechanism
- ARPANET:** Advanced Research Project Agency Network
- ASAP:** as soon as possible
- ASEAN:** Association of South East Asian Nations
- ASLV:** Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle
- ASSOCHAM:** Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ATC:** Air Traffic Control
- ATM:** Automated Teller Machine, Adobe Type Manager
- ATR:** action taken report
- ATS:** Anti-Tetanus Serum
- AU:** Astronomical Units; African Union
- AWACS:** Airborne Warning And Control System
- B2B:** Business to Business
- B2C:** Business to Consumer
- BARC:** Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- BBC:** British Broadcasting Corporation
- BC:** Before Christ
- BCG:** Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (anti-TB vaccine)
- BENELUX:** Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg
- BHEL:** Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd
- bhp:** brake horsepower
- BIFR:** Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

The Name for Space Voyagers

An astronaut is a space voyager. The British writer Percy Greg gave this name to a space ship in his novel 'Across the Zodiac' in 1880. The word began to be used for space travellers in the 1950s.

EPABX: Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange
EPG: Eminent Persons Group
EPI: Expanded Programme of Immunisation
EPIRB: Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon
EPNS: Electroplated Nickel Silver
EPROM: Erasable, Programmable Read Only Memory
EPS: Encapsulated Postscript
EPZ : Export Processing Zone
EQ: Emotional Quotient
ER&DC: Electronic Research and Development Center
ERM :European Exchange Rate Mechanism
ERNIE: Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment
ESA: European Space Agency
ESCAP: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESMA : Essential Services Maintenance Act
ESP: Extra Sensory Perception
et al.: et alii (and others)
et. seq: et sequentia (& what follows)
etc. et: cetera (and so forth)
ETR: Educational Devt. Index
ETT: Embryo Transfer Technology
EURATOM: European Atomic Community
EUTELSAT: European Telecommunications Satellite
EVA: Economic Value Added
EVE: economic valuation of the environment
EVR: Electrovideo Recording
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation
FAQ: Fair Average Quality; Frequently Asked Question

FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBT: Fringe Benefit Tax
FBTR: Fast Breeder Test Reactor
FBW: Fly-By-Wire
FCCB: Foreign Currency Convertible Bond
FCI: Food Corporation of India; Fertilizer Corporation of India
FCNRA: Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts
FCRA: Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
FDI: Foreign Direct Investment
FEMA: Foreign Exchange Management Act
FICCI: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FIDE: Federation Inter-nationale d'Echecs
FIFA: International Football Federation (Federation Internationale de Football Association)
FI: Foreign Institutional Investors
FIIPB: Foreign Investment Promotion Board
FIR: First Information Report
FIRE: Fully integrated robotised engine
FLC: Foreign Legal Consultant
FM: Frequency modulation
FMC: Forward Markets Commission
FMCT: Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
fob: free on board
for: free on rail
FPO: Fruit Products Order
FRCP: Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians
FRCS: Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons
FRS: Fellow of the Royal Society
FTIL: Films and Television Institute of India
FYE: for your information

Palindromes

Palindromes are words or phrases that read the same backwards.
 Madam, Malayalam, Not a Ton, able was i ere i saw elba.

CPI/M: Communist Party of India/
Marxist

CPR: Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation

CPWD: Central Public Works Department

CRISIL: Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd.

CRR: Cash Reserve Ratio

CRY: Child Relief and You

CSIR: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

CSO: Central Statistical Organisation

CT: Computerised Tomography

CTC (tea): Crushed tear curl

CTBT: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

CVC: Chief Vigilance Commission

CWC: Chemical Weapons Convention;
Congress Working Committee

cwt: Hundredweight (112 lb)

D & C: Dilation and Curettage

D.Litt.: Doctor of Literature

D.Phil.: Doctor of Philosophy

D.Sc: Doctor of Science

DC : Direct Current; District of Columbia

DDT: Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane

DGCI: Drug Controller General of India

DIG: Deputy Inspector General

DJIA: Dow Jones International Average

DMK: Dravida Munetra Kazhagam

DMZ: Demilitarized Zone

DNA: Deoxyribo-nucleic Acid

DPEP: District Primary Education Programme

DPT: Diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus
(vaccine)

DSB: Digital Satellite Broadcasting

DSL: digital subscriber line

DSP: Digital Signal Processing

DTH: Direct-to-Home

DTP: Desktop Publishing

DTS: Digital Theatre System

DV: Deo Volente (God willing)

DVC: Damodar Valley Corporation

DVD: Digital Versatile/Video Disc

DVI: Digital Video Interactive

DVS: Desktop Video-Conferencing
Software

E & OE: Errors and Omissions Excepted

E&Y: Earnest & Young

E-MAIL: Electronic Mailing

EAM: emergency action message

ECA: Essential Commodities Act

ECG: Electro Cardiogram

ECGC: Export credit guarantee corporation of India

ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council
(UN)

ECR: Electron Cyclotron Resonance

EDI: Electronic Data Interchange

EDMS: Electronic Document Management System

EDT: Eastern Daylight Time

EEG: Electro Encephalo-gram

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

EFTA: European Free Trade Association
e.g.: *exempli gratia* (for example)

EGP: Exterior Gateway Protocol

EIS: Executive Information System

EL: Electro-luminescent

ELINT: Electronic Intelligence

ELISA: Enzyme Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay

EMI: Equated Monthly Instalments

ENIAC: Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator

ENT: Ear, Nose and Throat

EOF: end of file

EOS :Electronic Online System International

EOU: Export Oriented Unit

Doublets

These are pairs or sets of words which though apparently different in form, are nevertheless from the same original root, with certain changes in spelling or certain additions. e.g. arc, arch; history, story; piety, pity.

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
IARI: Indian Agricultural Research Institute
IAS: Indian Administrative Service
IATA: International Air Transport Association
ibid or lb. ibidem (Latin): in the same place; book or chapter
IBM: International Business Machines
IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IC: Indian (airlines)
ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICAR: Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICBM: Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile
ICCR: Indian Council for Cultural Relations
ICJ: International Court of Justice
ICMR: Indian Council of Medical Research
ICPD: International Conference on Population and Development
ICRA: Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India
ICRISAT: International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics
ICSE: Indian Certificate of Secondary Education
ICT: Information & Communication Technology
ICU: Intensive Care Unit
ICWAI: Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India
IDBI: Industrial Development Bank of India
IEEE: Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers
IELTS: International English Language Testing System

IFS: Indian Foreign Service; Indian Forest Service
IGF: India Growth Fund
IGNOU: Indira Gandhi National Open University
IGY: International Geophysical Year
IISCO: Indian Iron and Steel Company
IISS: International Institute of Strategic Studies
IIT: Indian Institute of Technology
ILA: Indian Library Association
ILO: International Labour Organisation
IMAP: Internet Mail Access Protocol
IMF: International Monetary Fund
INA: Indian National Army
INDIPEX: Indian International Philatelic Exhibition
infra dig infra dignitatum (below status)
Inkel: Infrastructure Kerala Ltd.
I.N.R.I. : Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum
 (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews)
INS: Indian Newspaper Society
INSAT: Indian National Satellite
INSPIRE: Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research
INTACH: Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
INTELSAT: International Telecommunication Satellite
INTUC: Indian National Trade Union Congress
IOC: Indian Oil Corporation
IOU: I Owe You
IP: Internet Protocol
IPC: Indian Penal Code
IPCL: Indian Petro-Chemical ~~Company~~ Ltd
IPI: International Press ~~Institute~~
IPO: Initial Public Offering
IPS: Indian Police ~~Service~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ Service

Acronyms

Acronyms are sets of initials designed to be said as though they
 RADAR, ZIP, UFO, NATO, AIDS.

- 3G:** Third Generation
- G2B:** Government-to-Business
- G2C:** Government-to-Citizens
- G7:** Group of Seven (US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Canada) G8 includes G7 plus Russia
- GATE:** Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
- GATS:** General Agreement on Trade and Services
- GAVI:** Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
- GBP:** Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
- G.B.E.:** Grand Cross of the British Empire
- G.B.H.:** Grievous Bodily Harm
- GCC:** Gulf Co-operation Council
- GCR:** Grey Component Replacement
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- GDR:** Global Depository Receipt
- GEDIS:** Gateway Electronic Data Interchange Services
- GEF:** Global Environment Fund
- GEMS:** Gateway Electronic Mail Service
- GHQ:** General Headquarters
- GI:** Government Issue (American soldiers)
- GIS:** Geographical Information System
- GMAT:** Graduate Management Admission Test
- GMO:** Genetically Modified Organisms
- GMRT:** Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope
- GMT:** Greenwich Mean Time
- GNP:** Gross National Product
- GOOS:** Global Ocean Observing System
- GOP:** Grand Old Party (Republican Party)
- GPA:** Grade Point Average
- GPS:** Global Positioning System
- GRE:** Graduate Record Examination
- GRS:** Gender Reassignment Surgery (Sex Change)
- GRSE:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.
- GSI:** Geological Survey of India
- GSLV:** Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
- GSM:** Global System for Mobile Communications
- GSP:** Generalised System Preference
- GST:** Goods and Service Tax
- GUI:** Graphical User Interface
- GVW:** Gross Vehicle Weight
- HAL:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- HB:** Hard Black (Pencil)
- HBV:** Hepatitis-B Virus
- HDML:** Hyper Devices Mark-up Language
- HF:** High Frequency
- HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HMV:** His Master's Voice, Heavy Motor Vehicle
- Hon:** honourable, Honorary
- hp:** horse power
- HRPT:** High Resolution Picture Transmission
- HSD:** High Speed Diesel
- HSRRSS:** High Spatial Resolution Remote Sensing Satellite
- HT:** High Tension
- HTML:** Hyper Text Markup Language
- HTR:** High Temperature Reactor
- http:** Hypertext Transfer Protocol
- HUDCO:** Housing and Urban Development Corp.
- HV:** High Voltage
- HVAC:** Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning
- HVNET:** High Speed VSAT Network
- Le.:** id est (that is)
- IA:** Indian Airlines
- IA&AS:** Indian Audit and Accounts Services
- IAAI:** International Airport Authority of India

Onomatopoeic words

Onomatopoeic words sound like the noise they describe. e.g. Crunch, Bang, Meow, Gasp, Tap.

M: Monsieur (Mister)	MOSFET: Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor
M.A.: Magister Artium (Master of Arts)	MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
M.D: Doctor of Medicine	MP: Member of Parliament; Madhya Pradesh
MACT: Motor Accident Claims Tribunal	mph: miles per hour
MAD: Mutually Assured Destruction	MPLAD: Member of Parliament Local Area Development
MASER: Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation	MRA: Moral Re-Armament
MBA: Master of Business Administration	MRCP: Member of the Royal College of Physicians
MBBS: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MRTPC: Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission
MCC: Marylebone Cricket Club	MS/MSS: Manuscript/ Manuscripts
MCI: Medical Council of India	MSCI: Morgan Stanley Capital International
MDA: market development assistance	MT: Metric Ton
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals	MVC: Maha Vir Chakra
MICR: Magnetic ink character recognition	NAA: National Airports Authority
MIDI: Musical Instrument Digital Interface	NAAC: National Assessment and Accreditation Council
MIFOR: Mumbai Inter-Bank Forward Offer Rate	NABARD: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
MIN: Mutual Fund Identification No.	NAC: National Advisory Council
MIPS: Million Instructions per Second	NAFED: National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation
MIRU: Million Independently targeted re-entry Vehicle	NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement
MISA: Maintenance of Internal Security Act	NALCO: National Aluminium Company Ltd.
Misc.: Miscellaneous	NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
MIT: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US; Master Instruction Tape	NASDAQ: National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation
MKS: Metre Kilogram Second (System)	NASSCOM: National Association of Software and Service Companies
MI: Military Intelligence	NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
MLA: Member of Legislative Assembly	NAV: Net Asset Value
Mlle: Mademoiselle (Miss)	NB: nota bene (note well)
Mme: Madame (Mrs.)	NBE: National Board of Examination
MMR: Maternal Mortality Rate	
MMTC: Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation	
MNC: Multi-National Corporation	
MODEM: modulator demodulator	
MODVAT: Modified Value Added Tax	
MOR: middle-of-the-Road	

Bill of Health

Colloquially, 'bill of health' means a favourable report. It is also a certificate for absence of infectious disease. The captain of a ship carries the bill of health stating whether there is infectious disease aboard.

- IQ:** Intelligence Quotient
iq: idem quod (the same as)
IRA: Irish Republican Army
IRBM: Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
IRC: International Red Cross
IRDP: Integrated Rural Development Programme
IRE: Indian Rare Earth Ltd.
IREDA: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
IRRI: International Rice Research Institute
IRS: Indian Revenue Service
ISB: Indian School of Business, Hyderabad
ISBN: International Standard Book Number
ISC: Indian School Certificate
ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network
ISI: Indian Standards Institution, Inter Services Intelligence
ISKCON: International Society for Krishna Consciousness
ISO: International Standards Organisation
ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation
ISSN: International Standard Serial Number
IST: Indian Standard Time
ITA: Information Technology Agreement
ITBP: Indo-Tibetan Border Police
ITes: Information Technology enabled services
ITI: Indian Telephone Industries; Industrial Training Institute
ITU: International Telecommunication Union
- IUCD:** Intra-Uterine Contraceptive Device
IUI: Intrauterine Insemination
IVF: In-Vitro Fertilisation
JCO: Junior Commissioned Officer
JIPMER: Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research
JP: Justice of Peace
JPEG: Joint Photographic Expert Group
KFC: Kentucky Fried Chicken
KG: Knight of the Garter; Kindergarten
KKK: Ku Klux Klan (U.S. secret society. Anti-Negro, Anti-Jewish)
KRC: Konkan Railway Corporation
KRL: Kochi Refineries Ltd.
KYC: Know Your Customer
LASER: Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
LCA: Light Combat Aircraft
LCD: Liquid Crystal Display, Least Common Denominator
LCM: Lowest Common Multiple
LDL: Low-Density Lipoprotein (Cholesterol)
LERMS: Liberalised Exchange Rate Management Scheme
LeT: Lashkar-e-Taiba
LIC: Life Insurance Corporation (of India)
LIPS: Language Independent Programme Subtitles
LIS: Land Information System
LL.B.: Bachelor of Laws
LMC: Large Magellanic Cloud
Loc.cit.: Loco citato (at the place quoted)
LPG: Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LSD: Lysergic acid di-ethylamide
Lt.Col.: Lieutenant Colonel
LTTE: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Babbitt

Sinclair Lewis' novel Babbitt (1922) has George F. Babbitt as its main character. He has contributed a word to English. Babbitt is a smugly conventional person interested chiefly in business and success, with little respect for cultural values.

OPEC: Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries	PIGS: Pre-implantation Genetic Screening
OPM: Operating Profit Margin	PII: Press Institute of India
OPV: Oral Polio Vaccine	PIL: Public Interest Litigation
ORT: Oral Rehydration Therapy	PIM: Personal Information Management
OSCAR: Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio	PIN: Postal Index Number
OXFAM: Oxford Committee for Famine Relief	Pixel: Picture element
Oxon: Oxoniensis (of Oxford University)	PLAB: Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board
PAC: Public Accounts committee	PM: Post Meridiem; Prime Minister
PAL: Phase Alternation Line	PMG: Post Master General
PAN: Permanent Account Number	PNR: Passenger Name Recorder
PAR: Performance Appraisal Report	POTA: Prevention of Terrorism Act
PAT: Profit After Tax	POW: Prisoner of War
PAYE: pay as you earn	PPP: Purchasing power parity; Point-to-point Protocol
PC: post card; Personal Computer	PPPP: Public Private Panchayat Partnership
p.c.: per cent	PPS: Post Post Scriptum (additional post script)
PCA: Professional Chess Association	Pro-tem: Pro tempore (for the time being)
PCM: Pulse code modulation	PROLOG: Programming logic
PDA: Preventive Detention Act, Personal Digital Assistant	PS: Post Scriptum (written after); Private Secretary
PDS: Public Distribution System	PSB: Public Sector Bank
PFRA: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority	PSLV: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle
PEC: Project and Equipment Corporation	PSN: Processor Serial Number
PEN: (International club of) Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Editors and Novelists	PTA: Parent-Teacher Association
PERT: Project Evaluation and Review Technique	PTI: Press Trust of India
PETA: People for Ethical Treatment of Animals	PTO: Please Turn Over
PGM-FI: Programmed Fuel Injection	PVC: Poly vinyl Chloride; Param Vir Chakra
PGP: Pretty Good Privacy	PWD: Public Works Department; Persons with Disability
Ph.D.: Doctor of Philosophy (Philosophiae Doctor)	PZD: Partial Zonal Drilling
PIB: Press Information Bureau	QED: Quod Erat Demonstrandum [which was to be demonstrated or proved]
	QR: Quantitative restriction

Mad Cow Disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), popularly known as 'mad cow' disease, is a fatal disease of cattle causing degeneration of brain tissue. It first appeared in Britain in 1986. In 1996 a new strain of creutzfeldt - Jacob disease appeared, res BSE-infected beef products.

NC: Network Computer
CAER: National Council of Applied Economic Research
NC: National Cadet Corps
NCERT: National Council of Educational Research and Training
NCI: Nursing Council of India
CO: Non-Commissioned Officer
DA: National Defence Academy
DC: National Development Council
DDB: National Dairy Development Board
DES: New Data Encryption Standard
EOCONS: Neo-Conservatives
GO: Non-Government Organisation; Non-Gazett-ed Officer
HPC: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
ICD: National Institute of Communicable Diseases
IMHANS: National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences
IPER: National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research
IV: National Institute of Virology
KC: National Knowledge Commission
LC: Neyveli Lignite Corporation
MDC: National Mineral Development Corporation
MR: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
MS: Network Management System
OC: No Objection Certificate
PA: Non-performing Assets
PC: National Productivity Council
PCIL: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.
PL: National Physical Laboratory; Non-performing Loans
PT: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
REGA: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
RRF: National Renewal Fund
NRS: National Readership Survey
N&S: Network and Systems
NSA: National Security Advisor
NSEI: National Stock Exchange of India
NSG: Nuclear Suppliers Group
NSP: Native Signal Processing
NSUI: National Students Union of India
NSTM: Nano Science and Technology Mission
NTPC: National Thermal Power Corporation
NTSC: National Television System Commission
NTSE: National Talent Search Examination
O & M: Organisation & Methods
OAPEC: Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OAS: Organisation of American States
OAU: Organisation of African Unity (now AU)
OBC: Other Backward Classes
OCD: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
OCR: Optical Character Recognition
ODA: Overseas Development Administration
ODI: Open Data Link Interface
OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OGL: Open General Licence
OIC: Organisation of Islamic Conference
OIGS: On India Government Service
OLE: Object Linking and Embedding
ONGC: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
OOP: Object Oriented Programme
Op. cit.: Opero citato (in the work cited)
OPCW: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Discussing Death is Good

Discussion of death with terminally ill patients by doctors can help the patients and their relatives, say US researchers. It gives them a better quality of life in their waning days, they say.

- SLV:** Satellite Launch Vehicle
SMTP: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
SMS: Short Message Service
SNA: System Network Architecture
SOHO: Small Office Home Office
SOLAS: Safety of Life at Sea
SPCA: Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SPECT: Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography
SPTM: Self-Printing Ticketing Machine
STAR(TV): Satellite Television Asian Region Ltd.
START: Strategic Arms Reduction Talks
STC: State Trading Corporation
STD: Subscriber Trunk Dialling; Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STP: Software Technology Park
SUV: sports utility vehicle
SVP: Saturated Vapour Pressure
SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
T & D: Transmission & Distribution
TA: Territorial Army; Travelling Allowance
TACAMO: take charge and move over
TADA: Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act
TAFE: Tractor and Farm Equipment Ltd.
TAFTA: Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement
TAPS: Tarapur Atomic Power Station
TB: tuberculosis
TBSE: Technology Bureau for Small Enterprise
TCP: Transfer Call Protocol, Transmission Control Protocol
TDA: Trade Development Authority
TDMA: Time Division Multiple Access
TELCO: Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company
TEQIP: Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme
TERLS: Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station
TFT: Thin-Film Transistor
TFYP: Tenth Five Year Plan
TIFAC: Technology and Information Forecasting and Assessment Council
TIFR: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
TIPS: Technology Information Pilot System
TIPTOP: Tape input-tape output
TISCO: Tata Iron and Steel Company
TLC: Total Literacy Campaign
TMO: Telegraphic Money Order
TNT: Trinitro-toluene
TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language
TPM: Total Productivity Maintenance
TQM: Total Quality Management
TRIMS: Trade Related Investment Measures
TRIPS: Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
TSE: Test of Spoken English
TTC: Telemetry, Tracking & Command
TTE: Travelling Ticket Examiner
TWE: Test of Written English
UAV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UCI: Universal Childhood Immunisation
UCIL: Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.
UCLA: University of California Los Angeles
UCR: Under Colour Removal
UGC: University Grants Commission
UHF: Ultra High Frequency
UHNWI: Ultra-high networth individual
ULFA: United Liberation Front of Assam
UNCED: UN Conference on Environment & Development

Liver Transplant for 7-month Ol

Sivojit Paul became the youngest child ever to undergo a liver tra
 08. A team of 20 doctors in Delhi completed the surgery on the
 hours.

QSO: Quasi-stellar object	S & T: Science and Technology
qv: quod vide ((which see)	SAC: Space Application Centre
R&D: Research and Development	SAIL: Steel Authority of India Limited
R&M: Renovation and Modernisation	SAM: Surface to Air Missile
RAC: Reservation Against Cancellation	SAPTA: South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement
RADAR: Radio Detecting and Ranging	SARS: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
RAM: Random Access Memory	SASER: Sound Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
RAPD: Random Amplified Polymorphic Deoxyribonucleic Acid	SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test
RAW: Research & Analysis Wing	SCI: Shipping Corporation of India
RBI: Reserve Bank of India	SCM: Supply Chain Management
RCC: Reinforced Cement Concrete	SCSI: Small Computer Systems Interface
RD: refer to drawer	SCUBA: Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
RDX: Research Department Explosive (Cyclotrim-ethylin Trinitrate)	SDR: Special Drawing Rights
REM: Rapid Eye Movement	SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India
RFC: Request for Comments	SENSEX: Sensitivity Index (of Share Price)
RH: Rainwater Harvest	SET: Secure Electronic Transmission
RIP: Requiescat in pace (May he or she rest in peace); Raster Image Processor	SEZ: Special Economic Zone
RISC: Reduced instruction-set computing	SGPC: Siromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee
RITES: Rail India Technical & Economic Services	SHAPE: Supreme Head-quarters Allied Powers, Europe
RLO: Returned Letters Office	SHG: Self Help Group
RMS: Railway Mail Service	SIDS: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Crib Death)
RNA: Ribonucleic acid	SIFT: Sperm Intra-Fallopian Transfer
ROM: Read Only Memory	SIM: Subscriber Information Module
RONW: return on net worth	SIP: Systematic Investment Planning
RPM: Revolutions Per Minute	SITA: Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act
RSE: Renewable Source of Energy	SITE: Satellite Instructional Television Experiment
RSS: Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh	SLBM: Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile
R.S.V.P./R.s.v.p.: Repondez S'il Vous Plait (Reply if you please)	SLFP: Sri Lanka Freedom Party
RTG: Radio-isotope Thermoelectric Generator	SLR: Statutory Liquidity Ratio; Single Lens Reflex
RTI: Right to Information	
SAA: South African Airways	
SACLANT: Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic	
SASE: Self-addressed stamp-ed envelope	

Burns Night

Burns Night falls on Jan. 25. It commemorates the birth of the 18th century farmer poet Robert Burns. Scots all over the world celebrate the Night.

Pack Your Punch

Dr. Sebastian Narively

Every humorist and raconteur knows the power of a punchline that concentrates the point of a tale or joke into a few well-chosen words, calculated to create the effect of surprise and wit. Creators of proverbs, newspaper captions, political and advertising slogans have worked on the same principle as far as language goes: manipulating words to sell a point or product. Of these verbal punches, it is probably the commercial ads that have proved the most durable and ubiquitous. They bombard the eye and ear from a thousand billboards and TV commercials.

Although the taglines themselves are made to subserve the ends of an aggressive sales campaign, the best of them stand out for flashes of wit and evocative power. Some are adaptations of famous texts: Williams' Shaving Cream "covers a multitude of chins" a witty, if slightly irreverent, adaptation of the biblical commendation: "Charity covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter, 4 : 8) with a distinct echo of Aldous Huxley's sardonic comment on the Taj Mahal: "Marble covers a multitude of sins". For succinctness and wit, for quiet persuasive power, "Xtra mile" (Indian Oil Corporation), again, of biblical provenance (Matthew: 5 : 41-42) can hardly be bettered. Unobtrusively, it presses into service that liberal concessionary moral, so vital to smooth human transactions.

Here are a few more of these peppy tags, some marked by boldness of metaphor, others by hyperbolic excess of their claims, still others by humour, euphony and word play, over and above the selling point :

Airlines

TWA	Sight for Soaring Eyes
Boeing	Forever New Frontier.
Malaysian Airlines	Going Beyond Expectations
United Airlines	Fly The Friendly Skies

Automobiles

BMW	The Ultimate Driving Machine
Mitsubishi Lancer	Own The Road
Toyota Camry	Beyond Excellence
TVS Victor	More Smiles Per Hour

Consumer Goods

Amul	The Taste Of India
Coca Cola	Have A Coke And A Smile
Motel-6	We'll Leave A Light On For You.
Hind Unilever	Add Vitality To Life

Electrical

Bosch	Invented For Life
Mitsubishi Electric	Change For The Better
Crompton Greaves	Everyday Solutions

Most Stylish at 63

Sixty-three-year-old actress Dame Helen Mirren was crowned 'Most Stylish' at the Inspiration Awards for Women in London in Oct. 08.

Who is 'generously proportioned'?

According to Robert Holder's Dictionary of Euphemisms, people on the heavier side are not fat, but 'generously proportioned'. 'Wardrobe malfunction' is a euphemism inspired by Janet Jackson's Super Bowl flash in 2004 when part of her costume 'accidentally' came off.

UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

UNI: United News of India

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (now, 'United Nations Children's Fund')

UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

UNITA: Union for the Total Independence of Angola

UNMOGIP: United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

UNOPS: UN Office for Project Services

UNPROFOR: UN Protection Force

UNRRA: United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

UNU: United Nations University

UPA: United Progressive Alliance

UPS: Uninterrupted Power Supply

UPSC: Union Public Service Commission

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

USO: Udaipur Solar Observatory

USP: Unique selling proposition

VAT: Value Added Tax

VC: Vice-Chancellor, Victoria Cross; Venture Capital

VCR: Video Cassette Recorder

VD: Venereal Disease (see STD)

VDIS: Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme

VHS: Video Home System

VIP: Very Important Person

VIRUS: Vital Information Resources Under Siege

VPP: Value Payable Post

VRS: Voluntary Retirement Scheme

VSAT: Very Small Aperture Terminal

VSSC: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

WAN: World Association of Newspapers

WCC: World Council of Churches

WDM: World Debt Market

WEF: World Economic Forum

WGPA: Weighted Grade Point Average

WHO: World Health Organisation

WMD: Weapons of Mass Destruction

WMO: World Meteorological Organisation

WPI: Wholesale Price Index

WTI: World Tribunal on Iraq

WTO: World Trade Organisation

WWF: World Wildlife Fund, now renamed Worldwide Fund for Nature

WWW: World Wide Web

XPD: X-Ray Photoelectron Diffraction

YMCA: Young Men's Christian Association

YWCA: Young Women's Christian Association

ZIP: Zone Improvement Plan

ZOPFAN: Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality

An Airport for Everest Heroes

There is an airport at Lukla in Nepal named after Everest heroes Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa. It is called the Tensing-Hillary Airport.

The Presence of Colours in English

Nirmala Krishnaswamy
Chennai

There are many words and expressions in English which are to do with colours. The apt use of these adds variety to our speech and writing. The list given below is by no means exhaustive. The more common expressions have obviously been left out. The more uncommon ones have been included. A few of these occur in articles, journals and magazines.

It may be of interest to know that certain vocabulary items connected with flora and fauna have 'taken on' colours.

Many are in use indigenously.

1. Black

Black as a noun or adjective is nowadays the preferred term to use when referring to any dark skinned ethnic group. Terms such as 'black organization' and 'black English' are common and are used by black community. However, the use of 'black' in Britain may be considered offensive amongst the immigrants from the Indian sub-continent.

1. black-and-blue : discoloured from coagulation of blood below the surface of the skin
2. black and white : a) print or in writing
b) explicit, unmistakable terms
3. blackball : a negative vote that blocks the admission of an applicant to an organization; ostracise
4. black beetle : the common cockroach
5. black belt : the rank of an expert in a system of self-defence such as judo or karate
6. black board jungle : a theoretically perfect absorber of all incident radiation, also called 'full radiator'
7. black book : a record of people liable to punishment
9. black box : a flight-recorder
10. blackdamp : a gas composed of a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen, found in mines after an explosion of combustible gases. Also called 'chokedamp'
11. Black Death : a form of plague that was pandemic throughout Europe and much of Asia in the 14th century
12. black diamond : (informal) coal
13. black dog : a melancholy state or mood; depression (Usually preceded by 'the')

The Saudi Royal Family

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was established in 1932 by the powerful King Abdul Aziz who had 44 sons by 15 wives. He died in 1955. Four of his children I country since.

Electronics

BPL	Believe In The Best
L G	Life's Good
Onida	Neighbour's Envy, Owner's Pride
Sansui	Better Than The Best

Fabrics

Graviera	
Suitings	The Man Of Substance
Peter England	More Is Less
Raymond	The Complete Man
Nike	Wear Your Attitude

Finances

Citibank	The Citi Never Sleeps
HSBC	The World's Local Bank
Punjab	
National Bank	The Name You Can Bank Upon

Horology

HMT	Significant Moments
Omega	
Watches	The Sign Of Excellence
Pulsar Watches	Accuracy To Seconds A Month

Media

The Hindu	
Business Line	The White Paper On Business
The Telegraph	Unputdownable
Doordarshan	Satyam Sivam Sundaram
The Week	Journalism With A Human Touch

Petrochemicals

British	
Petroleum	Beyond Petroleum
HPCL - Power	Unleash The Power Within

ONGC

Reliance	Making Tomorrow Brighter
Industries	Growth Is Life

Pharma

Pfizer	Life Is Our Life's Work
Torrent	Not Just Health Care.... Life Care
Wockhardt	A Picture Of Health

Software

IBM	I Think, Therefore Ibm
Microsoft	Your Potential Our Passion
Polaris	Power Of Precision
Satyam	What Business Demands

States

Karnataka	One State, Many Worlds
Kerala	God's Own Country
Tamil Nadu	A State Of Mind

Miscellaneous

Adidas	Forever Sport
Berger Paints	Paint Your Imagination
Goodyear	One Revolution Ahead
Essar	A Positive A++itude
Godrej Locks	Peace Of Mind Guaranteed
Heinz Baked Beans	Beanz Meanz Heinz
L & T	It's All About Imageneering
Miss World Contest	Beauty With A Purpose
Oceanus	Constructive Ideas
Reid & Taylor	Bond With The Best
Techseol	The E-business Enabler
Thomas Cook	Don't Just Book It, Thomas Cook It.

A Young Author Gets Booker

Ben Okri of Nigeria won the Man Booker Prize in 1991 at the age of 32 for his book *The Famished Road*. He is the youngest to receive the prestigious award.

conservative person (chiefly in the phrase 'a true blue').

d) (Australian slang) a) A row, an argument b) a name for a person with red hair, also called "bluey" c) (Australian informal) a loyal friend or a person to whom one is grateful: "You're a true blue mate! d) (Australian informal) a blunder; an embarrassing mistake. (There are many more of such informal expressions in Australian English)

- 2) a blue joke : an indecent joke
- 3) a blue film : pornographic
- 4) blue baby : an infant born with bluish skin caused by inadequate supply of oxygen indicative of a congenital malfunction of the heart
- 5. bluebeard : a man thought to be a wife-slayer or a killer of women
- 6. bluebeat : a type of rhythmic West Indian popular music
- 7. bluebell : a European plant, having a one-sided cluster of fragrant, blue-violet flowers
- 8. blueberry : any of several N.American shrubs, having small urn-shaped flowers and edible berries
- 9. blueblood : of noble or aristocratic descent
- 10. bluebook : an official publication of the British Government. So named from its blue covers
- 11. blue bottle : any of several blowflies, having a bright metallic-blue body and breeding in decaying organic matter
- 12. blue chip : a stock that sells at a high price because of public confidence in its profit-making ability and safety
- 13. blue collar : of or pertaining to wage-earners in jobs performed in clothing such as overalls and often involving manual labour
- 14. blue-eyed boy : the male favourite of a person or group
- 15. blue flier : the full grown female red kangaroo
- 16. blue funk : a state of panic
- 17. blue gum : a tall timber tree, native to Australia having aromatic leaves that yield a medicinal oil (eucalyptus)
- 18. blue jeans : a pair of blue denim jeans
- 19. blue pencil : edit, revise or correct with; to censor
- 20. blue peter : a large shark with a pointed snout that inhabits Australian waters
- 21. blueprint : any carefully designed plan or model
- 22. blue riband : the first prize; the highest distinction or honour
- 23. blues : (sometimes used with a singular verb) a state of depression or melancholy
- 24. blue stocking : a serious intellectual or scholarly woman

A Children's Nation

There is a nation where half the population are children. In Uganda, 5 are aged between 0 and 14 years.

4. black frost : a condition in which the air temperature falls below freezing point without frost forming, causing blackening and internal damage in vegetation
5. black gold : crude oil
6. blackguard : a scoundrel; a scurrilous person
7. black hat : especially formerly, a recent immigrant to Australia
8. blackheart : a disease of potatoes and other plants, in which the inner tissues darken
9. blackjack : a small leather-covered bludgeon used as a hand weapon
10. black light : invisible ultraviolet or infrared radiation
11. black lightning : an Aboriginal fire used for cooking, signalling, or the like that is thought to be the cause of a bushfire
12. blacklist : a list of persons or organizations to be disapproved of, boycotted, or suspected of disloyalty
13. blackout : a) the extinguishing or concealing of lights that might be visible to enemy aircraft during an air-raid at night
b) a temporary loss of electric power
c) in the theatre, the sudden extinguishing of all stage lights to indicate passage of time, or to end the mark of an act or a scene
d) a temporary loss of consciousness or vision. A suppression or stoppage, as of news for political reasons
24. black panther : a member of a militant organization of blacks in the United States who seek to establish black supremacy by force
25. black sheep : a person considered undesirable or disgraceful by his family or peer group
26. black stump : (Australian and N.Z.) an imaginary last post at the edge of civilization, used chiefly in the phrases "this side of the black stump", "beyond the black stump"
27. blacktop : a bituminous material, such as asphalt, used to pave roads
28. black widow : a spider, of which the extremely venomous female is black with red markings (from the fact that the female eats its mate)

2. Blue

1. blue : a) a butterfly belonging to any of eleven groups of British butterfly such as the common blue or Chalk-hill Blue, in which the males are normally blue, and the females brown and that can fly with great speed
b) A person who represents / has represented Oxford or Cambridge University in a sport.
c) a member of the Conservative Party or loosely a political

One Sixth of the Population at a Funeral

One sixth of Iran's population lined the 32-km. route to the cemetery in Tehran for the funeral of Ayatollah Khomeini on June 11, 1987. The number of people was estimated to be near 10 million.

11. green house : a) a usually glass-enclosed structure used for cultivating plants that require controlled temperature and humidity
b) a part of an aircraft covered with a clear plastic bubble or shell
12. greenhouse : a) heating effect that occurs in greenhouse as a result of solar radiation passing through the glass and heating the contents which emit infrared radiation that cannot escape through the glass greenhouse effect
b) a similar effect that results from the absorption of solar radiation by the earth, its conversion and re-emission in the infrared, the absorption of the infrared radiation by atmospheric ozone, water vapour and carbon dioxide and the consequent gradual rise in the temperature of the atmosphere
13. greening : a) An apple of any of several varieties having green-skinned fruit, used chiefly in cooking
b) the reawakening or rejuvenation of public consciousness
14. green keeper : a person who looks after the greens of golf courses
15. green paper : (Britain) a government document published to allow consultation among interested parties before legislative proposals are finalized
16. green stick fracture: a fracture in a long bone of a child or young animal in which the bone is bent and splintered but not completely broken

5. Red

1. red beds : sequences of red sedimentary rocks, especially sandstones or shales, the iron present being oxidized to red ferric oxide
2. red blooded : strong, brave or virile
3. Red Brigade : a terrorist group formed in Italy in 1969 and committed to the abolition of capitalist society
4. roll out the red carpet or a red-carpet treatment : ceremoniously hospitable treatment
5. Red Crescent : a branch of the Red Cross Society in a Muslim Country
6. catch red-handed : catch in the act of committing or having just committed a crime
7. red herring : something that draws attention away from the matter or issue at hand
8. red-letter : memorable, "a red-letter day"

6. White

1. white admiral : a Eurasian butterfly, having brown wings marked with white

Sandwichmen Banned

Spanish capital Madrid has banned 'sandwichmen' and other human billboards calling them an 'assault on people's dignity'. Sandwichmen employed by jewellers signs 'I Buy Gold' on their chest and backs.

- 5. blue throat : a small European songbird
- 5. blue vitriol : the blue hydrated crystalline form of copper sulphate
- 7. into the blue : into the remote distance, out of sight and knowledge
- 3. out of the blue : completely unexpectedly

Brown

- brown : (South African) of or pertaining to the coloured community (of mixed racial descent) or a member of it
- brown coal : lignite (a type of coal)
- browed off : bored, unhappy or annoyed; fed up
- brown field : refers to an area of land in a city that was used by offices or an industry in the past and that is now, perhaps acquired and cleared for new building development
- brown-nose : to ingratiate oneself with; behave in a demeaning manner towards
- brownie point : if somebody does something to earn brownie points, they do it to make someone in authority to have a good opinion of them.
- Brownshirt : a Nazi militia
- brown study : a state of deep thought
- brown sugar : a) unrefined or partially refined sugar
b) a coarse, low-grade variety of heroin from South East Asia

Green

- greenback : (in US currency) a dollar bill
- green ban : (Australian) a refusal by a trade union to do work that may harm the environment
- green belt : an area of parks, farmland or uncultivated land surrounding a town or city
- Green Beret : a member of a US commando unit
- green bottle : a common insect related to flies that has a green metallic colouring and lays its eggs in decaying flesh
- green card : a) an international insurance document for motorists
b) a US permit for foreigners, allowing unconditional residence
- green-eyed : jealous (green with envy)
- green fingers : the ability to grow plants successfully (Also, US "green thumb")
- green grocer : a retailer of fresh fruit and vegetables
- 0. green horn : a) an inexperienced or immature person
b) a gullible person

In Memoriam

Lord Alfred Tennyson wrote his masterpiece *In Memoriam* after the death of his fellow poet and close friend Arthur Hallam, who had been engaged to his sister Emily.

- 2. white man's burden : (from the poem of the same name by Rudyard Kipling) the gratuitously assumed duty of the white peoples to govern and bring white civilization to the non-white peoples of the world (typically through colonization)
- 3. white noise : acoustical or electrical noise in which the intensity is the small at all frequencies within a given band
- 4. white out : a polar weather condition caused by a heavy cloud over the snow, in which the light coming from above is approximately equal to the light reflected from below, and which is characterized by the absence of shadow, the invisibility of the horizon and the discernibility of only very dark objects
- 5. White Paper : (often capital W and capital P) an official statement or report published by a government, providing issue and presenting the government's own policy
- 6. white plague : tuberculosis of the lungs
- 7. white pointer : white shark
- 8. white sapphire : a pure form of corundum, used as a gem
- 9. white slave : a woman held unwillingly for purposes of prostitution
- 10. white supremacy : the theory that the white race is inherently superior to and therefore entitled to rule all other races
- 11. white trash : (or poor white (s) as a class (used derogatorily)
- 12. white vitriol : zinc sulphate
- 13. white wash : a) an attempt to conceal or gloss over mistakes or failures especially so as to free those responsible from possible blame
b) a defeat in a game in which the loser scores very few or no points
- 14. white waters: turbulent or frothy water as in rapids

. Yellow

is yellow, of all the colours which has many compound words that refer to insects, birds, flowers or trees. For instance,

- 1) yellow archangel : a creeping perennial woodplant
- 2) yellow bark : a kind of the bark
- 3) yellow-bellied : having a belly yellow or yellowish in colour, as certain birds and fish do.
- 4) yellow flag : a common yellow-flowered iris

There are many others which belong to this category

- 5. yellow fever : (also called "yellow jack") an acute infectious disease of

The Highest IQ

Marilyn vos Savant, an American magazine columnist and playwright, has an IQ score of 228. She became famous when the Guinness Book of World Records listed her under the Highest IQ category.

- white alkali : a) any of several mineral salt, such as sodium sulphate or sodium chloride, that appear as a white deposit on certain alkaline soils
b) refined sodium carbonate
- white ant : a termite
- white bait : the young of various fishes such as the herring, considered a delicacy when fried
- white bear : the polar bear
- whitecap : a wave with a crest of foam
- white coal : water regarded as a source of power
- white collar : of, pertaining to, or designating those workers, usually salaried whose work usually does not involve manual labour and who may be expected to dress with some degree of formality
- white damp : a poisonous gas, consisting primarily of carbon monoxide, that occurs in coal mines
0. white sepulchre : a hypocrite, an evil person who pretends to be holy or good
1. white elephant : a) a rare whitish or light-grey form of the Asian elephant, often regarded with special veneration in regions of south-eastern Asia
b) something that is large, costly, and perhaps impressive but expensive to maintain; unproductive and consequently unwanted
c) an expensive project or venture which comes to nothing or turns out to be a failure
12. white face : completely white make-up, as worn by a clown
13. white feather : a sign of cowardice
14. white flag : a white cloth or flag signalling surrender or truce
15. white gold : an alloy of gold and nickel or palladium and sometimes containing small amounts of silver, copper or zinc, having the colour of platinum
16. white goods : electrical household appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines, typically having a white exterior
17. white gum : any of various Australian eucalyptus trees having pale-coloured bark
18. white-hot : so hot as to glow with a bright white light; broadly, hotter than red-hot
19. white knight : a person or a group that mounts a rescue operation to save a company threatened by takeover or closure (from the association of knights rescuing those in distress and of white with purity and virtue)
20. white lie : a diplomatic or well-intentioned untruth
21. white magic : magic used for good purposes or against evil

The World's Tallest Hardwood Tree

The world's tallest hardwood tree has been discovered in Tasmania. The tallest eucalyptus tree, tallest hardwood tree and tallest flowering plant, Centurion (named after a Roman officer) stands between 100 and 101 metres.

3. Alexander technique : a system designed to promote well-being through the control of posture (named after the Australian born actor and educationist Frederick Mathias Alexander, 1869-1955)
4. Algorithm : 1. The Arabic system of numbers; the decimal system 2. any mechanical or recursive computational procedure (after Muhamud ibn Musa AL KHWARIZMI)
5. Alice band : a flexible band worn to hold back the hair (named after the heroine of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll).
6. Alzheimer's Disease: a form of progressive mental deterioration occurring in middle or old age (named after the German neurologist Alois Alzheimer (1869-1915))
7. August : the eighth month of the year, named after Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor.
8. bacchanal : a wild and drunken party or celebration named after Bacchus, the Greek or Roman God of wine.
9. Bailey bridge : a prefabricated lattice steel bridge designed for rapid assembly especially in military operations (named after the English engineer, Sir Donald Bailey)
10. bilharzia : a chronic disease caused by infestation with blood flukes, endemic in parts of Africa and South America (named after the German physician Theodor Bilharz, 1825-62, who discovered the parasite)
11. biro : a kind of ball point pen (named after Laszlo Jozsef Biro, 1899-1985, Hungarian inventor of the ball point)
12. bloomers : women's loose-fitting knee-length knickers, sometimes gathered at the knee or ankle (named after Mrs. Amelia J. Bloomer, 1818-1894, an American social reformer who advocated the garment).
13. bobby : police officer (after Sir Robert Peel, 1788-1850, the British Prime Minister who established the Metropolitan Police).
14. bolivar : the base monetary unit of Venezuela, equal to 100 centimos (named after the Venezuelan Simon Bolivar, 1783-1830, who liberated Venezuela from the Spanish.
15. Boolean : denoting of a system of notation used to represent logical propositions by means of the binary digits 0 (false) and 1 (true), especially in computing and electronics (named after the English mathematician George Boole, 1815-64)
16. boronia : a sweet scented Australian shrub, cultivated for its perfume

Be Kind to Rats

The killing of rats at homes and laboratories is deprecated by the NGO PET became active in Asia Pacific countries with the beginning of the Rat Year in China. Rats are sociable, intelligent and likeable, if only given a chance, says PETA.

- sub-tropical and tropical areas caused by a virus transmitted by a mosquito
- yellow flag : a) yellow fever b) a yellow flag hoisted to warn of disease on board a ship
- yellow lines : In Britain and a few other countries, yellow stripes pointed along the sides of a roadway to indicate parking restrictions certain times if it is single yellow lines; double yellow lines restrict parking at all times
- yellow metal : a) a form of brass containing about 60% copper and 40% zinc
b) gold
- yellow peril : the threat or the alleged threat that oriental races, especially the Chinese, will invade or destroy Europe or Western civilized countries
- yellow spot : a part of the human retina
- yellow streak : a proneness to cowardice and disloyalty

Eponyms

An eponym is a word derived from the name of a person. This could be the name of a real, fictional, mythical or spurious character or person. Many familiar English words are eponyms as they have been derived from someone's name. These words may be categorized into those which are names of:

- a) food and drink : Pavlova, sandwich, stroganoff
 b) clothings : bowler, cardigan, wellington
 c) plants and animals : begonia, dahlia, guppy
 d) scientific units and medical terms : ampere, joule, ohm, watt, Whipple's disease, Meniere's disease

Given below is a list of eponyms. The more common words and expressions have been included.

1. Adam's Apple : a projection at the front of the neck formed by the thyroid cartilage of the larynx (So named from the notion that a piece of the forbidden fruit became lodged in Adam's throat).
2. Adonis : an extremely handsome young man (from the name of a beautiful youth in Greek mythology).

Tobacco, the Killer

The smoking rate for men in India is 29 p.c., while it is three per cent for women. Tobacco chewing rate is 29 p.c. for men and 12 p.c. for women. Smoking and chewing tobacco have resulted in over 800,000 deaths in the country, it is estimated.

29. Cassandra : Italian adventurer, Giovanni Jacopo Casanova, 1725-98)
: a prophet of disaster (from Cassandra in Greek mythology - in revenge for being cheated by her, Apollo caused her prophecies, though true, to be disbelieved).
30. chauvinism : (pronounced 'shawvinism)
a) exaggerated or aggressive patriotism
b) excessive or prejudiced support for one's own cause, group or sex (named after Nicolas Chauvin, a Napoleonic veteran noted for his extreme patriotism).
31. Chippendale : (of furniture) designed by or resembling the work of the English furniture-maker Thomas Chippendale, 1718-79, neo-classical with elements of French rococo and chinoiserie
32. cicerone : a guide who gives information to sight-seers (Italian, from the name of Roman writer, Cicero, 106-43 BC apparently referring to the guide knowledge)
33. cordoba : the basic monetary unit of Nicaragua, equal to 100 centavos (named after Fernandez de Cordoba, a sixteenth century Spanish Governor of Nicaragua).
34. daguerreotype : (also, daguerrotype) a phototype taken by an early process using an iodine-sensitised silver-coated copper plate and mercury vapour (named after L.J.M. Dauguerre, 1789-1851, its French inventor).
35. dahlia : a garden plant with brightly-coloured single or double flowers and tuberous roots, native to Mexico (named after the Swedish botanist Andres Dahl, 1751-89)
36. davenport : a) an ornamental writing desk with drawers and a sloping surface for writing.
b) (in N. America) a large upholstered sofa (named after a Caphain Davenport, for whom a desk of this type was made in the late 18th century).
37. Derrick : a) a kind of crane with movable pivoted arm.
b) the framework over an oil-well, holding the drilling machinery (first used to denote a hangman, also the gallows from Derrick, the surname of a London hangman).
38. Dickensian : of or reminiscent of the novels of Charles Dickens, 1812-1870, especially in terms of the urban poverty that they portray.
39. diddle : chat or swindle (probably from the name of Jeremy Diddler, a character in the farce, Raising the Wind, who constantly borrowed small sums of money).
40. diesel : a) an internal - combustion engine in which the heat of compressed air is used to ignite the fuel.

Highest and Lowest Per Capita Income

According to World Bank figures of Sept. 2007, Luxembourg top in 2006 with a Gross National Income per capita of \$76,040. B the bottom, with \$ 100.

- and flowers (named after the Italian botanist, Francesco Borone, 1769-94).
- bouffe : bras, tortoiseshell, or other material used for inlaying furniture (from the name of the French cabinmaker Andre Bouffe, 1642-1732)
- bowdlerize : to expurgate prudishly (after Thomas Bowdler 1754-1825, British editor famous for his expurgated editions of classic literary works, especially his Family Shakespeare (1818). His belief was in texts which could be shared by all members of the family).
- bowler : a man's hard felt hat with a round dome-shaped crown (named after the 19th century English hatter William Bowler)
- boycott : to abstain from using, buying or dealing with, as a protest or means of coercion (after Charles C Boycott, 1832 to 1897, a land agent, who was ostracized by the tenants for refusing to lower the rents.
- braggadocio : boastful or arrogant behaviour (from the name of Braggadocchio, a boastful character in Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queene - 1590)
- Braille : a system of writing and printing for the blind, in which varied arrangements of dots in relief representing letters and numerals which can be identified by touch (after Louis Braille, 1809-52, French inventor of the Braille system. He was blinded himself at the age of three).
- brainiac : a very intelligent person (from the name of a superintelligent alien character in the Superman Comic strip)
- Bright's disease : a disease involving chronic inflammation of the kidneys (named after the English physician Richard Bright, 1789-1858)
- brougham : a) a horse-drawn carriage with a roof and an open driver's seat in front.
b) a motor car with an open driver's seat (named after Lord Brougham, 1779-1868, who designed the carriage)
- Caesarean : relating to Julius Caesar, 'Caesarean section' which is a surgical operation for delivering a child by cutting through the wall of a mother's abdomen (from the story that Julius Caesar was delivered by this method.
- Candide : an ingenuous person who retains a hopeful and optimistic outlook in difficult circumstances (from the name of the hero of Voltaire's Satire Candid 1759)
- Casanova : a man notorious for seducing women (from the name of the

"T" for a Poet Laureate

England's first poet laureate Ben Jonson was a bricklayer turned clergyman. He was once jailed for murder, but as a clergyman he couldn't be hanged. As a convicted murderer he was branded on his left thumb with a capital 'T'. It stood for Tyburn, the gallows in London.

52. Gladstone bag : a bag like a briefcase having two equal compartments joined by a hinge (named after the British Liberal statesman W.E Gladstone, 1809-98).
53. gray : the unit of the absorbed dose of ionizing radiation in the SI system, corresponding to one joule per kilogram (named after the English physicist Louis H. Gray, 1905-65).
54. guillotine : a) a machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used for beheading people.
b) a similar device used for cutting paper or sheet metal.
c) (in Britain Parliament) a procedure used to limit discussion of a legislative bill by fixing times at which various parts of it must be voted on (named after the French physician Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, 1738-1814, who recommended its use in executions in 1789).
55. Hansen's disease : term for leprosy (named after the Norwegian physician Gerhard Hansen, 1841-1912).
56. hansom : (also hansom cab) a two-wheeled horse-drawn cab having space for two inside, with the driver seated behind (named after the English architect, Joseph A. Hansom, 1803-82, who patented such a cab).
57. Hobson's choice : a choice of taking what is offered or nothing at all (named after Thomas Hobson, 1554-1631, a carrier who hired out horses, making the customer take the one nearest the door or none at all.)
58. Hoover : from the company trade mark name Hoover, today it has come to mean "to vacuum a floor". The word has also come to mean anything that is sucked up at a great rate (named after the American industrialist, William H. Hoover, 1849-1932, responsible for the manufacture of the gadget).
59. Houdini : a person skilled at escaping from desperate situations (from the name of Harry Houdini, American magician and escape artist, 1874-1926).
60. Jacquard : a device incorporating perforated cards, fitted to a loom for the weaving of figured and brocaded fabrics (named after the French weaver Joseph M. Jacquard, 1787-1834).
61. jacuzzi : a large bath incorporating jets of water to massage the body (named after the Italian born American inventor Candido Jacuzzi, 1903-86).
62. Jeremiad : a long complaint or lamentation, a list of woes ('Jeremiah' is a person who complains continually or foretells disaster).

Written Examinations for Civil Servants

Jobs almost everywhere were often filled by relatives of those in power
In the 2nd century B.C., written exams were used to select civil servants

- b) a form of petroleum used to fuel diesel engines (named after the German engineer Rudolf Diesel, 1859-1913).
1. dobro : a type of acoustic guitar with steel resonating discs inside the body under the bridge (from Do pera Brothers, the Czech-American inventors of the instrument).
2. Dolby : a) a noise-reduction system used in tape-recording.
b) an electronic system providing stereophonic sound for cinemas and televisions (named after the American engineer Ray M. Dolby - born in 1933).
3. Don Juan : a seducer of women (from the name of a legendary Spanish nobleman).
4. Dow Jones index : An index of figures indicating the relative price of shares on the New York Stock Exchange (named after the financial news agency Dow Jones & Co., Inc)
5. Down's syndrome : a congenital disorder causing intellectual impairment and physical abnormalities - Down's syndrome is the accepted modern term for this condition as words such as 'mongol' or 'mongolism' are likely to cause offence (named after the English physician John L.H. Down, 1828-96)
6. draconian : excessively harsh (named after the Athenian legislator, Draco, notorious for the severity of his laws (7th century B.C.)
7. Early Grey : A kind of China tea flavoured with bergamot (probably named after 2nd Earl Grey, 1764-1845, said to have been given the recipe by a Chinese mandarin).
8. Eustachian tube : a narrow passage leading from the pharynx to the middle ear, enabling pressure to be equated in each side of the drum (named after the Italian anatomist Bartolomew Eustachio, who died in 1574)
9. gallup poll : an assessment of public opinion by the questioning of a representative sample used in forecasting voting results in an election (named after the American statistician George H Gallup, 1901-84).
10. garibaldi : a thin biscuit containing a compressed layer of currants (named after the Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi, 1807-82)
11. gerrymander : manipulate the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favour one party or class (from the name of Governor Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts + salamander, from the supposed similarity between a salamander and the shape of a new voting district created when he was in office, which was felt to favour his party).

The Highest Library

The Guinness World Records says the library on the 60th floor of the J.W. Marriott Hotel at Tomorrow Square in Shanghai is situated at 757 ft. 6 in. above street level. The library contains Chinese and English books.

74. martinet : a strict disciplinarian (named after Jean Martinet, 17th century drill master)
75. mausoleum : a building housing a tomb or tombs (from Mausolos, the name of a king of the 4th century BC to whose tomb in Hali carnassus the name was originally applied).
76. maverick : an unorthodox or independent - minded person (from the name of Samuel A. Maverick, a Texas rancher who did not brand his cattle).
77. mesmerism : a therapeutic technique that involved hypnotism (named after the Australian physician Franz Mesmer, 1734-1815).
78. Melba toast : very thin crisp toast
79. Peach Melba : a dessert
80. Melba sauce : a sauce made (all three named after the Australian opera singer Dame Nellie Melba, 1861-1931).
81. Methuselah : a) a very old person
b) a wine bottle of eight times the standard size (named after the biblical patriarch Methuselah, said to have lived for 969 years - Book of Genesis, chapter-5)
82. Molotov cocktail : a crude incendiary device consisting of a bottle of flammable liquid ignited using a wick (named after the Soviet statesman Vyacheslav Molotov, 1890-1986, who organized the production of similar grenades in the Second World War).
83. Morse
(also Morse Code) : a code in which letters are represented by combinations of - long and short light or sound signals (named after its American inventor Samuel F.B. Morse 1791-1972).
84. Narcissism : 1) self-love, excessive interest in one's own appearance, comfort, importance, abilities etc.; 2) a daffodil with white or pale outer petals and a shallow yellow or orange centre. The flower first sprang up at the place where a beautiful Greek youth, Narcissus, fell in love with his own reflection in a pool, pined away and died. His infatuation with his own beauty links his name with this term.
85. Nebuchadnezzar : a very large wine bottle, equivalent in capacity to about twenty regular bottles (from Nebuchadnezzar II, king of Babylon in the sixth century B.C.)
86. Nestor : in the Homeric poems, a hero celebrated for his age and wisdom.
87. nicotine : a toxic oily liquid which is the chief active constituent of tobacco (named after Jean Nicot, a sixteenth century diplomat)

Dynastic Links

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Britain had four sons and five daughters. With the children's marriages into other royal houses, most crowned heads of Europe in the 20th century were descendants of the English queen.

- A reference to the Lamentation of Jeremiah in the old Testament.)
- 6. John Bull : a personification of England or the typical Englishman (from the name of a character in John Arbuthnot's Satire 'Law is a Bottomless Pit', or, the History of John Bull, 1712)
 - 7. Judas : a person who betrays a friend (from the name of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Christ).
 - 8. Kafkaesque : relating to the Czech novelist Franz Kafka, 1883-1924, or his nightmarish fictional world.
 - 9. Kalashnikov : a type of rifle or sub-machine gun made in Russia (named after the Russian designer, Mikhail T. Kalashnikov- born 1919)
 - 10. leotard : a close fitting stretchy one-piece garment covering the body to the top of the thighs, worn for dance, gymnastic and exercise (named after French trapeze artist Julius Leotard, 1839-70)
 - 11. Lucullan : (especially of food) luxurious, sumptuous (named after Lucius Licinius Lucullus, a first century BC Roman general famous for staging elaborate banquets)
 - 12. lynch : (of a group) kill someone as punishment for an alleged offence without a legal trial (from Lynch's Law, named after Captain William Lynch. Head of a self-constituted judicial tribunal in Virginia in 1780)
 - 13. macadam : broken stone used with tar or bitumen for surfacing roads and paths (named after the British surveyor John L. McAdam, 1756-1836)
 - 14. Mach : used with a numeral (as Mach 1, Mach 2 etc.) to indicate the speed of sound, twice the speed of sound etc. (named after the Austrian physicist Ernst Mach, (1838-1916).
 - 15. masochism : the tendency to derive pleasure from one's own pain or humiliation (named after Leopold Von Sacher-Masoch, 1835-95, the Austrian novelist who described it).
 - 16. Machiavellian : cunning, scheming and unscrupulous (from the name of the Italian statesman and writer Niccolo Mahiavelli, 1469-1527, whose work 'The Prince' (1532) advises that acquiring and exercising power may require unethical methods)
 - 17. malapropism : (US, also malaprop) the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one (e.g 'a child progeny' instead of a prodigy) (from the name of the character Mrs. Malaprop in Richard Sheridan's play *The Rivals*, 1775).

The Emperor who Couldn't Write

Founder of the Holy Roman Empire, Charlemagne never learned to write properly, though he made an effort late in his life. However, Charlemagne (742-814) was a great patron of learning.

- inflicting pain, suffering or humiliation on others (named after the French writer Marquis de Sade, 1740-1814)
99. salchow : a jump in figure skating from the backward inside edge of one skate to the backward outside edge of the other with one or more full turns in the air (named after the Swedish skater Ulrich Salchow, 1877-1949).
100. sandwich : an item of food consisting of two pieces of bread with a filling between them (named after the 4th Earl of Sandwich, 1718-92, an English nobleman said to have eaten food in this form).
101. sapphism or lesbianism : relating to the Greek lyric poet Sappho (early 7th century B.C.) or her poetry expressing love and affection for women, relating to lesbian or lesbianism.
102. Scrooge : a person who is mean with money (from the name of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly character in Charles Dickens' story, A Christmas Carol, 1843)
103. shrapnel : a) small metal fragments thrown out by the explosion of a shell bomb etc.
b) shower with shrapnel (named after the British soldier General Henry Shrapnel)
104. sideburns : a strip of hair grown by a man down each side of the face, in front of his ears (first as 'burnside', from the name of American general Ambrose Burnside, 1824-81, who affected this style).
105. silhouette : the dark shape and outline of someone or something visible in restricted light against a brighter background (named after the French author and politician Etienne de Silhouette, 1709-67)
106. spoonerism : an error in speech in which the initial sounds or letters of two or more words are accidentally transposed, often to humorous effect, as in 'you have hissed the mystery lectures' (named after the English scholar Revd W.A. Spooner, 1844-1930, who reputedly made such errors, in speaking).
107. Wharton's jelly : mucoid connective tissue which constitutes most of the bulk of the umbilical cord (named after Thomas Wharton, 1614-73, an English anatomist).
108. Zeppelin : a large airship shaped like a cigar with pointed ends. It has a rigid frame of light metal within which are separate compartments filled with gas. Zeppelins were mostly used between 1914 and 1937 (named after Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, 1838-1917, who invented it)

Father of the Nation on Currency Notes

The Father of the Nation appeared on Indian bank notes as M.K. Gandhi, was then changed to Mahatma Gandhi.

- who introduced tobacco to France).
88. Papparazzo : (pl...-zi) an aggressive photographer or reporter who pursues celebrities wherever they go (from a press photographer in Federico Fellini's film 'La dolce Vita').
89. Parkinson's disease: a progressive disease of the brain and nervous system marked by involuntary trembling, muscular rigidity and slow, imprecise movement (named after the English surgeon, James Parkinson 1755-1824)
90. pavlova : a dessert consisting of a meringue base or shell filled with whipped cream and fruit (named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, 1881-1931).
91. Pavlovian conditioning : of or relating to conditional reflexes (as described by the Russian physiologist Ivan P. Pavlov 1849-1936) famous for training dogs to respond instantly to various stimuli).
92. platonic : a) of or associated with the Greek philosopher Plato or his ideas.
b) of love or friendship - intimate and affectionate but not sexual.
93. Pott's disease : tuberculosis of the spinal column, often resulting in a marked curvature of the spine caused by the destruction of the affected vertebrae (named after Percival Pott, 1713- 1788, a British surgeon who described the condition resulting from the disease).
94. Pyrrhic victory : won at too great a cost to have been worthwhile for the victor (named after Pyrrhus, a king of Epirus whose victory over the Romans in 279 BC incurred heavy losses).
95. quisling : a traitor collaborating with an occupying enemy force (from the Norwegian army officer Major Vidkun Quisling, 1887-1944 who ruled Norway on behalf of the German occupying forces).
96. Rontgen : (also 'roentgen') a unit of quantity of ionizing radiation (named after the German physicist and discoverer of X-rays, Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen, 1845-1923).
97. Rubik's Cube : puzzle in the form of a plastic cube covered with coloured squares, which the player attempts to turn so that all the squares on each face are of the same colour (named after the Hungarian inventor Erno Rubik, born 1944).
98. sadism : the tendency to derive pleasure or sexual gratification from

First Asian Woman to Skydive

Namira Saleem, who is training to become Pakistan's first astronaut, became the first Asian woman to skydive from a height of 29,480 feet, higher than the Mount Everest in Oct. 08. In Apr. 07, and Jan. 08 she became the first Pakistani to reach the North and South poles.

Blend Words

A portmanteau word (blend word) is any word which is formed by fusing together elements from two other words and whose meaning shares or combines the meanings of the source words. portmanteau

word was first coined by Lewis Carroll 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' in 187. Most of the blend words have their origin in media or literary usage and they gain acceptance due to popular usage.

advertainment	= advertisement + entertainment
advertonial	= advertisement + editorial
aerocade	= aeroplane + motorcade
affluenza	= affluence + influenza
ambisextrous	= ambidextrous + sex
ampicillin	= amino + penicillin
anacronym	= anachronism + acronym
anecdoteage	= anecdote + dotage
animatronics	= animated + electronics
aquacade	= aqua + motorcade
aquacise	= aqua + exercise
avionics	= aviation + electronics
backronym	= back + acronym
bash	= bang + smash
beatles	= beat + beetles
because	= by + cause
beefalo	= beef + buffalo
beverage	= beer + peerage
Billary	= Bill Clinton+Hillary Clinton
bioneer	= bilogy + pioneer
bionic	= biology + electronic
biopic	= biographical + picture
bit	= binary + digit
bleep	= blackout + beep
blog	=web + log
blodgebnity	= blog + celebrity
blotch	= blot + botch
blurt	= blow + spurt

bohunk	= bohemian + Hungarian
brash	= bold + rash
breathalyser	= breath + analyser
brunch	= breakfast + lunch
bumble	= bungle + stumble
cabarenaissance	= cabaret + renaissance
cablegram	= cable + telegram
camcorder	= camera + recorder
camelcade	= camel + motorcade
capitonym	= capital + onym
cellophane	= cellulose + diaphane
chillaxing	= chilling + relaxing
Chindia	= China + India
chortle	= chuckle + snort
chugger	= charity + mugger
chump	= chunk + lump
chunnel	= channel + tunnel
cinemagic	= cinema + magic
cinemaniac	= cinema + maniac
cineplex	= cinema + complex
cinerama	= cinema + panorama
clash	= clap + crash
Clintonomics	= Clinton + economics
compuseum	= computer + museum
computrainer	= computer + trainer
contrail	= condensation + trail
cremains	= cremated + remains
croissantwich	= croissant + sandwich
cyberspace	= cybematics + software

A Course to Overcome Blushing

Psychologists at the Royal University of Groningen, the Netherlands have developed a course to cure people with so-called erythrophobia, an abnormal fear of blushing. Shyness and physical strain are the causes for blushing.

Words in Pairs

There are quite a few vocabulary items in English, which come in pairs. Many are adjectives while some others are nouns. The characteristic nature of these words is that both items of the compound word end with the same sound. In fact, in most cases the end syl-

lables are the same.

These words are extremely useful in certain appropriate contexts as they enhance the quality of expression and make the language more effective. The list given below is by no means an exhaustive one.

1. airy-fairy : foolishly idealistic and vague
2. argy-bargy : noisy quarrelling
3. dilly-dally : dawdle or vacillate
4. fuddy-duddy : a person who is very old-fashioned and pompous
5. harum-scarum : reckless; impetuous
6. helter-skelter : in disorderly haste or confusion
7. hocus-pocus : meaningless talk used to deceive
8. hodge-podge
(also hotch-potch) : a confused mixture
9. hoity-toity : haughty
10. hunky-dory : excellent
11. hurdy-gurdy : a musical instrument with a droning sound played by turning a handle, with keys worked by the other hand
12. hurly-burly : boisterous activity
13. itsy-bitsy (also itty-bitty) : very small
14. jiggery-pokery : deceitful or dishonest behaviour
15. knick-knack : a small object, especially an ornament of little value
16. mish-mash : a confused mixture
17. namby-pamby : lacking courage or vigour
18. pell-mell : in a confused, rushed or disorderly way
19. pitter-patter : a sound as of quick light steps or taps
20. riff-raff : disreputable or undesirable people
21. roly-poly : round and plump
22. silly-billy : a silly person (used affectionately or humorously)
23. teeny-weeny
(also teensy-weensy) : very small
24. tell-tale : revealing or betraying something
25. tip-top : of the very best; excellent
26. willy-nilly : whether one likes it or not; without direction or planning, haphazardly.
27. wishy-washy : (of a drink or soup) weak or thin; feeble or insipid

N.K.

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Chindia	= China + India
chortle	= chuckle + snort
chugger	= charity + mugger
chump	= chunk + lump
chunnel	= channel + tunnel
cinemagic	= cinema + magic
cinemaniac	= cinema + maniac
cineplex	= cinema + complex
cinerama	= cinema + panorama
clash	= clap + crash
Clintonomics	= Clinton + economics
compuseum	= computer + museum
computrainer	= computer + trainer
contrail	= condensation + trail
cremains	= cremated + remains
croissantwich	= croissant + sandwich
cyberspace	= cybernetics + software

A Course to Overcome Blushing

Psychologists at the Royal University of Groningen, the Netherlands have developed a course to cure people with so-called erythrophobia, an abnormal fear of blushing. Shyness and physical strain are the causes for blushing.

Words in Pairs

There are quite a few vocabulary items in English, which come in pairs. Many are adjectives while some others are nouns. The characteristic nature of these words is that both items of the compound word end with the same sound. In fact, in most cases the end syl-

lables are the same.

These words are extremely useful in certain appropriate contexts as they enhance the quality of expression and make the language more effective. The list given below is by no means an exhaustive one.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. airy-fairy | : foolishly idealistic and vague |
| 2. argy-bargy | : noisy quarrelling |
| 3. dilly-dally | : dawdle or vacillate |
| 4. fuddy-duddy | : a person who is very old-fashioned and pompous |
| 5. harum-scarum | : reckless; impetuous |
| 6. helter-skelter | : in disorderly haste or confusion |
| 7. hocus-pocus | : meaningless talk used to deceive |
| 8. hodge-podge | |
| (also hotch-potch) | : a confused mixture |
| 9. hoity-toity | : haughty |
| 10. hunky-dory | : excellent |
| 11. hurdy-gurdy | : a musical instrument with a droning sound played by turning a handle, with keys worked by the other hand |
| 12. hurly-burly | : boisterous activity |
| 13. itsy-bitsy (also itty-bitty) | : very small |
| 14. jiggery-pokery | : deceitful or dishonest behaviour |
| 15. knick-knack | : a small object, especially an ornament of little value |
| 16. mish-mash | : a confused mixture |
| 17. namby-pamby | : lacking courage or vigour |
| 18. pell-mell | : in a confused, rushed or disorderly way |
| 19. pitter-patter | : a sound as of quick light steps or taps |
| 20. riff-raff | : disreputable or undesirable people |
| 21. roly-poly | : round and plump |
| 22. silly-billy | : a silly person (used affectionately or humorously) |
| 23. teeny-weeny | |
| (also teensy-weensy) | : very small |
| 24. tell-tale | : revealing or betraying something |
| 25. tip-top | : of the very best; excellent |
| 26. willy-nilly | : whether one likes it or not; without direction or planning, haphazardly |
| 27. wishy-washy | : (of a drink or soup) weak or thin; feeble or insipid |

medifraud	= medical + fraud
metrosexual	= metropolis + heterosexual
microsoft	= microcomputer + software
mimsy	= flimsy + miserable
mindscape	= mind + landscape
mingy	= mean + stingy
mobike	= motor + bike
moblog	= mobile + weblog
mockney	= mock + Cockney
modem	= modulator + demodulator
moped	= motor + pedal
motel	= motor + hotel
motorcade	= motor car + cavalcade
multiplex	= multiple + complex
muppet	= marionette + puppet
napalm	= naphthene + palmitate
netiquette	= internet + etiquette
netizen	= internet + citizen
newscast	= news + cast
newseum	= news + museum
nit	= napienian + digit
nucleonics	= nucleon + electronics
o'clock	= of the + clock
offlish	= office + English
olionaire	= oil + millionaire
outpatient	= outside + patient
Oxbridge	= Oxford + Cambridge
palimony	= partner + alimony
pang	= pain + sting
parascending	= parachute + ascending
paratroop	= parachute + troop
pharming	= pharmaceutical + farming
pixel	= picture + element
printellectual	= print + intellectual
prissy	= prim + sissy
pulsar	= pulsating + star
quasar	= quasistellar + radio
qubit	= quantum + bit
radiocast	= radio + broadcast
raggazine	= rag + magazine
Reaganomics	= Reagan + economics

rockumentary	= rock + documentary
scientifiction	= science + fiction
scuzzy	= scum + lousy
seascape	= sea + landscape
sexaggrate	= sex + exaggerate
sexational	= sex + sensational
sexcapade	= sex + escapade
sexcellence	= sex + excellence
sexcuse	= sex + excuse
sexercise	= sex + exercise
sexhibitionist	= sex + exhibitionist
sexotic	= sex + exotic
sexpert	= sex + expert
sexploitation	= sex + exploitation
simulcast	= simultaneous + broadcast
sitcom	= situation + comedy
skyjack	= sky + hijack
slang	= slovenly + language
slanguage	= slang + language
slimnastics	= slim + gymnastics
slosh	= slop + slush
slumpflation	= slump + inflation
smarketing	= smart + marketing
smash	= smack + mash
smaze	= smoke + haze
smog	= smoke + fog
smudgemate	= smudge + estimate
snazzy	= snappy + jazzy
snivelization	= snivel + civilisation
soundscape	= sound + landscape
spamdex	= spam + index
Spanglish	= Spanish + English
splatter	= splash + spatter
splurge	= splash + surge
spousekeeping	= housekeeping + spouse
squawk	= squall + squeak
squdge	= squash + pudge
squiggle	= squirm + wriggle
squirl	= squiggle + whirl
tagflation	= stagnation + inflation
steelionaire	= steel + millionaire

The Oldest Alphabet

The Greek alphabet is the oldest surviving alphabet of Europe. Until about 500 B.C., Greek was written from right to left. The system of capital letters and small letter, a feature of Greek.

cyborg	= cybematic + organism
cybrarian	= cyber + librarian
dancercise	= dance + exercise
diabesity	= diabetes + obesity
ditsy	= dizzy + dotty
docudrama	= documentary + drama
docusoap	= documentary + soap opera
docutainment	= documentary + entertainment
doddle	= dodder + toddle
dormobile	= dormitory + automobile
drice	= dry + ice
dumbfound	= dumb + confound
e-book	= electronic + book
e-commerce	= electronic + commerce
econocrat	= economist + bureaucrat
edutainment	= education + entertainment
e-governance	= electronic + governance
electrocute	= electric + execute
electrocute	= electronic + execute
email	= electronic + mail
e-marketing	= electronic + marketing
emoticon	= emotion + icon
enerdiesel	= ethnol + diesel
e-paper	= electronic + newspaper
e-publishing	= electronic + publishing
e-tailer	= electronic + tailer
faction	= fact + fiction
factoid	= fact + oid
fantabulous	= fantastic + fabulous
fanzine	= fanatic + magazine
feminar	= feminine + seminar
fictomercial	= fiction + commercial
flabbergast	= flabby + aghast
flare	= flame + glare
flexitarian	= flexible + vegetarian
flap	= flap + drop
flounder	= flounce + founder
flurry	= flutter + hurry
folksonomy	= folks + taxonomy
fortnight	= fourteen + nights

Franglais	= French + English
frankenword	= Frankenstein + word
freecycling	= free + recycling
freeware	= free + software
gainsay	= against + say
galumph	= gallop + triumph
genome	= gene + chromosome
Gerrymander	= Elbridge Gerry + salamander
ginormous	= giant + enormous
glamping	= glamorous + camping
glaze	= glare + gaze
glimmer	= gleam + shimmer
glitz	= glamour + ritz
glob	= globe + blob
goodbye	= God + be (with) + ye
goon	= gorilla + baboon
guesstimate	= guess + estimate
hassle	= haggle + tussle
hazmat	= hazardous + material
heliport	= helicopter + airport
hi-tech	= high + technology
humongous	= huge + monstrous
infomercial	= information + commercial
infotainment	= information + entertainment
insinuating	= insinuation + innuendo
intercom	= internal + communication
internet	= international + network
Jacobethan	= Jacobean + Elizabethan
jamboree	= jam + soiree
Japlish	= Japanese + English
Jazzercise	= jazz + exercise
knowledgebase	= knowledge + database
liger	= lion + tiger
lox	= liquid + oxygen
magalogue	= magazine + catalogue
malware	= malicious + software
manimal	= man + animal
medicare	= medical + care
medicity	= medical + city

Shortest Rail Networks

Some countries have railways of less than 100 km. each. These include Djibouti, Puerto Rico, Nepal, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Nicaragua.

hanky/hankie	- handkerchief	prom	- promenade
high	- high school	psych	- Psychology
hippo	- hippopotamus	pub	- public house
lab	- laboratory	ref	- referee
lib	- liberation / library	rev	- revolution
limo	- limousine	rhino	- rhinoceros
lunch	- luncheon	sarge	- sergeant
mac / mack	- mackintosh	sync	- synchronization
math / maths	- mathematics	specs	- spectacles/specifications
memo	- memorandum	stats	- statistics
mic / mike	- microphone	stereo	- stereophonics
mum	- mummy/chrysanthemum	sub	- submarine/substitute/ subsidiary/sub-editor/ suburb
OB	- obstetrician	taxi	- taxicab
pants	- pantaloons	teen	- teenager
para	- paragraph	tie	- necktie
pen	- penitentiary	tux	- tuxedo
perm	- permanent wave (hair style)	typo	- typographical error
phone	- telephone	vac	- vacation
photo	- photograph	van	- caravan
pike	- turnpike	veg	- vegetable/ vegetable meals
plane	- airplane	veggie/veggie	- vegetarian
pop	- popular music	vet	- veterinary surgeon/ veteran
pram	- perambulator		
prep school	- preparatory school		
privates	- private parts		
prof	- professor		

Contributed by: V. Vijayakumar

Spelling Bee

The words that decided the winner. The following are the last words given and spelled correctly in each of the years 1993-2008 at the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, conducted by leading newspapers in U.S.A.

2008	:	guerdon	2003	:	pocourante
2007	:	serrefine	2002	:	prospicience
2006	:	Ursprache	2001	:	succedaneum
2005	:	appoggiatura	2000	:	demarche
2004	:	autochthonous	1999	:	logorrhea
			1998	:	chiaroscurist
			1997	:	euonym
			1996	:	vivisepture
			1995	:	xanthosis
			1994	:	antediluvian
			1993	:	kamikaze

Swedish	= Swedish + English
swipe	= wipe + sweep
tangelo	= tangerine + pomelo
telegenic	= television + photogenic
telethon	= telephone + marathon
televangelist	= television + evangelist
telex	= teleprinter + exchange
Texican	= Texas + Mexican
tigon	= tiger + lion
tractorcade	= tractor + motorcade
transistor	= transfer + resistor
transputer	= transistor + computer
travelogue	= travel + monologue

tween	= teen + between
twiddle	= twist + fiddle
twirl	= twist + whirl
waddle	= wade + toddle
webiner	= web + seminar
Weejun	= Norwegian + Injun
Wenglish	= Welsh + English
wholphin	= whale + dolphin
WiFi	= wireless + fidelity
workaholic	= work + alcoholic
wizzled	= wrinkled + frizzled
zonkey	= zebra + donkey
zorse	= zebra + horse

Clipped Words

A clipped word is a word shortened by informal use.

Clipped words are popularly used because they are easier to spell.

ad	- advertisement
auto	- automobile
bike	- bicycle / motorcycle
bit	- binary digit
burger	- hamburger
bus	- omnibus
cello	- violoncello (music instrument)
champ	- champion
chem	- chemistry / chemist
cig / ciggy	- cigarette
commie	- communist
con	- convict
co-op	- cooperative
copter	- helicopter
croc	- crocodile
cuke	- cucumber

cuppa	- a cup of tea
decaf	- decaffeinated coffee
digs	- lodgings
Ding	- Doctor Ingeniariae (Doctor of Engineering)
disc	- compact disc
doc	- doctor / document / documentary
dorm	- dormitory
exam	- examination
fan	- fanatic
flu	- influenza
fob	- fob chain
fridge	- refrigerator
gas	- gasoline
grad	- graduate
gym	- gymnasium

Reading by Touch

A blind person who uses the Braille system can understand upto 150 words in a minute. This is about half the speed of a sighted person reading ordinary text.

politics may be classified as terrorism. Today also, terrorism is directed against centres of power, which include individuals who hold power, institutions under their control and symbols of power. But a number of conventional ideas regarding terrorism have changed over a period of time. It is a debatable question as to what context the words terrorist and terrorism are used today. Terrorism is often confused with ordinary criminality or guerrilla warfare. Often, one man's terrorist may be perceived as other man's freedom fighter. The establishment will always regard its opponent a terrorist, whereas the latter would consider himself a freedom fighter. Whether one is a militant, guerrilla, jihadi, freedom fighter or terrorist depends on which side one stands. In short, there is a problem of objectivity in the definition of terrorism.

2. Replacement of Political Ideologies with Religious ones in the 21st Century

Today, terrorist groups based on political ideologies are on the decline. In this context, it has been pointed out that the demise of the left wing terrorist groups coincided roughly with the end of the Cold war. Gone are the days of Khmer Rouge, Viet Kong, Tupac Amaru and the Naxalites. We have seen a relative decline, perhaps even extinction of what we traditionally considered ideological terrorism. Their place is now being taken over by groups claiming to represent particular religions. Terrorism today largely runs on the wheels of religious and sectarian fundamentalism. The difference between ideological groups and religious ones



Scene after bombing at Marriott Hotel

is that while the former operates within the constraints set by the goal of obtaining political support for their cause, the latter are not seeking political support, but may be explaining their mission in theological terms and harbouring visions of a final war between good and evil. In 1980, the US Department of State listing on international terrorist groups contained scarcely a single religious organization. In 1998, when it announced a list of 30 of the world's most dangerous groups, over half were religious groups. This indicates the increasing clout of religious over terrorist groups. No wonder that Hamas of Palestine with a purely sectarian agenda wields clout than the mainstream P.L.O. with Socialist and Nationalist appeal.

3. Transition from Country-Specific Terrorism to International Terrorism

The new terrorism is certainly global in its outlook and reach. Formerly, terrorists operated within fixed boundaries. For instance, the activities of the Basque Separatist Movement Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA) was more or less restricted within Spain. But, today, such groups are on the wane and those targeting Israel and the West, especially USA, are on the rise.

Arabic

Arabic is the official language of 17 countries. About 250 m. people speak the language, which is also the language of the Muslim religion.

International Terrorism and the Changing Global Order

Dr. Mohan Varghes

In the new millennium the world is a better place to live in due to economic and technological advancements. But it has become a riskier place to live in as conventional wars of previous millennia gave way to a more violent form of conflict called terrorism. Today, global terrorism is the greatest security threat faced by humanity. Many believe that the world is presently going through the third world war. Unlike the first two world wars, the line up place the established states on one side and terror outfits on the other. Symbols of state power became objects of terror attack. This is particularly so since September 11, 2001.

International Terrorism: A Corollary of Cultural Sensitivity

The greatest crisis faced by modern man in a globalized world is identity crisis. The identity crisis culminates in a frantic search to find his roots. This search takes him to certain areas overshadowed by the effect of globalization, such as language, ethnicity, religion and the like. This rediscovery puts enormous strain on one's value system and value judgments. The stresses and counter stresses associated with primordial loyalties on one side and globalization on the other, cause struggles, and some of these assume

the dimension of international terrorism. The present day asymmetrical world order perpetuated by the domination of USA as the leading power provides fertile ground for the proliferation of terrorist outfits which utilise this cultural asymmetry to the hilt to generate favourable linkage among like minded groups and use unparalleled terror as a means to revert the order. Attack on World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001 is a case to this effect. The ensuing debate portrays the resurgence of cultural agenda of the world. Efforts are taken to discuss how country specific terrorism has given way to international terrorism in the 21st century and how the terrorists generated resources to combat the mighty nations of the world that stand for status-quo and the preservation of today's world order. Also the contemporary academic works that throw light on cultural and ideological sensitivity and international terrorism may also be subjected to analysis in this part. The causes, origin, growth and implications of culturally inspired contemporary phenomenon of global terrorism may be summed up under the following titles

1. Defining Terrorism

In a classical sense, any act of violence against individuals, groups or the state to change the outcome of some process of

Death Zone

What is Death Zone in mountaineering? The altitude above 8000 m. (26,245 ft.) at which the human body can no longer adapt to the climatic conditions.

5. The Emergence of Charismatic Leadership with political ambitions using cultural rhetoric for legitimizing their deeds: The declared objectives of terrorist groups are often political rather than cultural. For instance, continuation of Taliban regime in Afghanistan, the establishment of an independent Palestine and the detachment of Saudi Arabia from American sphere of influence constitute political interests of Al Qaeda leadership. When Osama Bin Laden demanding withdrawal of all forces from the Middle East, it represents more or less a political agenda triggered by messianic ambitions. Similarly the State sponsored terrorism unleashed by charismatic dictators like Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Colonel Gadhafi of Libya and Fidel Castro of Cuba in the past against American targets all over the world also stemmed from this ambitions. Never the less the state sponsored terrorism is on the decline due to the tough measures taken by the US (e.g. the conversion of Gadhafi of late). These causes mentioned above generate considerable resentment among a large number of people who get recruited to the movements that engage in armed liberation struggles, often classified as terrorism. Also, the suppression of the rights of a people for self determination in the guise of 'infinite justice' and 'enduring freedom' in Afghanistan and Iraq respectively, add a political twist to the already existing economic and cultural conflict between the Christian West and the Islamic Middle East.

6. The Fatal Monetary Attraction

Today's terrorist groups operate on large budgets. They require huge sums of money to check mate the awesome money

power of the established states against which they wage an unequal war. Often, this money is the result of illegal activities like smuggling, international arms trafficking, narcotics trade, money laundering and extortions. This is in addition to the huge covert financial support from states which patronize terrorists in enemy territories. E.g.: Traditional US policy of clandestine assistance to several terrorist outfits in West Asia, Africa and Latin America, Pak policy of funding terrorists operating in Kashmir etc. This large inflow of money prompts at least a small number of disgruntled people in each under developed country, mostly youngsters, to opt for terrorism as a lucrative vocation. The discussion on the causes of international terrorism points to the increasing tendency of identification of culture as a factor causing the divide. This view finds expression in a number of extremely influential articles and books. Chief among them are Samuel Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the world Order* (1996), Benjamin Barber's *Jihad vs Mc World* (1996), and Francis Fukuyama's *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992).

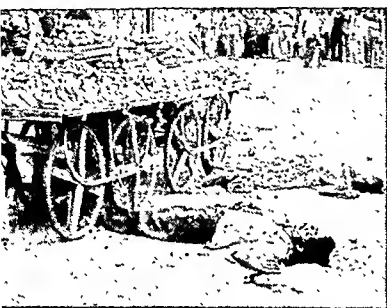
Gulf War

Though terrorism existed in one form or the other ever since Roman times, its sudden sprout and assumption of global character in the nineties can be traced to the Gulf War of 1991. The Afghan War and the Gulf war II aggravated it. The fear of Islamic states getting totally sidelined in the new global order dominated by the West added an unmistakable cultural twist to the ongoing tussle.

The Bridge of Sighs

The Bridge of Sighs in Venice, Italy connects the Doge's Palace with the city jail. Those sentenced to death crossed this bridge to reach the jail. The prisoners' sighs of despair gave the bridge its name.

E.g.: Palestinian Hamas. These groups do not operate from one country alone. Some groups, prohibited from operating within the country of their origin, direct their action from outside, often targeting diplomatic missions, installations and aircraft of the enemy country. E.g.: Lebanese Hizbullah, whose presence now reaches six continents. Several other



Terrorist attack at Ahmedabad

terrorist groups function internationally and it is difficult to identify where they operate from. For instance Al Qaeda operates from virtually every Islamic Country.

another category of groups operate from a neighbouring country where they are supported and aided by the host, which is often at loggerheads with its neighbours. E.g.: Hizbual Mujahiddin, Harkat-ul-Mujahiddin, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Lashkar-e-Toiba etc. operating from Pak Occupied Kashmir against India. In short, no terrorist group can any longer claim itself to have a national agenda. This is an era of global terrorism.

4. The Economic and Cultural Causes that Lead to Terrorism

International terrorism stems from

the increasing realization about two things in the contemporary world order dictated by the USA. i. The denial of justice and the adoption of double standards by the West: The groups spread across national borders caused by the exploitation of their natural resources in the name of globalization result in the emergence of large number of groups comprising disgruntled people. These groups have a shared ideology and common enemy. For instance, Al Qaeda is an amalgamation of a number of Islamic Fundamentalist groups holding USA as the common enemy. Their operations are on a global scale, singling out people and objects having American links for terror attacks. E.g. Al Qaeda attacks on American embassies world over. Through these attacks, the terror network try to avenge the double standards adopted by the United States on a variety of issues, the strongest one being its strong support to Israel, a country known for gross human rights violations.

ii. The destruction of ethnic balance of a country or a region: The systematic elimination of a Country's religious and linguistic minorities in the name of ethnic cleansing force minority population to resort to terrorist tactics. E.g.: LTTE's struggle against the Sri Lankan Government, Hamas and Islamic Jihad of Palestine carrying out attacks against Israel, the fight for survival between Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian groups in erstwhile Yugoslavia, operations of IRA of Britain, Basques of Spain etc. Though these groups operate mostly within national boundaries, their modus operandi often upset relationship between countries of the same region.

New Schengen Countries

Nine more countries became part of the Schengen Agreement in December to bring the total to 24. They are: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

to weapons have increased the ability of terrorist to nullify the nation state's superior firepower. The acquisition of weapons of mass destruction is easier than ever. (Remember the Abdul Qadir Khan episode). Also the clandestine Sale of WMDs by North Korea, some erstwhile Soviet Republics etc. add to this threat. The advances in communication and Information Technology have also facilitated world wide terrorist operations. Cyber terrorism could be a threat of the future, with telecommunications and Computer system of nations and private organizations becoming easier to penetrate.

5. Futility of 'Deterrence' Against Suicide Bombings:

A disturbing trend of present day terrorism is the increasing incidence of suicide terrorism. A terrorist willing to sacrifice his life can take several lives along with his own. The developments of 11th September 2001 underscore the point that advanced weapons are no longer required to cause mass casualties and destruction. Counter terrorism efforts become ineffective in confronting the resolute suicide terrorist. With American casualties in Iraq crossing 4000 mark in five years of occupation, the US is realizing the impact of suicide bombings (most soldiers perished in such attacks).

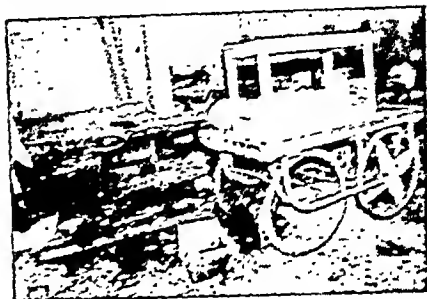
6. Trivialization of the United Nations:

The UN, an agency once regarded the ultimate one to address the issue of global terrorism, is today a pale replica of its illustrious past. The vacuum left by the UN is filled today by the US as the world policeman. As speculation is rife

over the possible role of the UN in the post occupation scenario in Iraq, no one is willing to write it off completely either.

7. The Grand Dilemma of the Established Islamic States:

Major Islamic polities are groping in the dark as to whether the state should crack down the anti-American militants operating from their territory. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan and Indonesia share this dilemma to varying degrees. Also, the possible domestic backlash in the form of adverse public



The Jaipur blast

opinion cause these states to tread cautiously.

8. The Moral Support Extended to the Terrorist Cause:

There is a growing realization that terrorism is the only option to ensure self determination of a people. The resultant moral support of the international community for the cause of terrorists is subjected to a careful analysis. In addition to this, groups fighting established states through guerilla activities often receive moral as well as logistical support of other states. For example, the goodwill of international community on Palestine cause expressed

The Seven Summits

Climbing to the top of the highest mountains on the seven continents is the biggest mountaineering challenge. There are two contenders for the highest mountain in continental Australia. The Carstensz Pyramid (Puncak Jaya) in the central highlands of New Guinea is the highest mountain in the world.

Linking causes of global terrorism with western imperialism and militant Islamism might not be a difficult task. But at a more conceptual level, this could raise more questions than answers. Probably Huntington's prediction of the "Clash of civilizations and the Remaking of the world order" has already begun to materialize

Impact of Terrorism on Contemporary Global Order

Recent trends in international terrorism may be summed up as follows.

1. A Dramatic Increase in the Quality, Quantity and Impact of Terror

As the struggle between established national armies and the terrorists get more and more intense, a hitherto latent phenomenon - identification of soft targets for terror attacks - has surfaced in the new millennium. In this new wave that started with the attack of World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001, killing thousands of innocent civilians, the awesome fire power, coordinatory effect as well as strong determination of modern day terrorists are amply displayed. Episodes such as assassination of Israeli athletes during Munich Olympics 1972, killing of Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme, Rajeev Gandhi of India, etc are things of the past. Today, the random killing of ordinary citizens are on the rise as athletes, diplomats, heads of states and politicians are heavily insulated against terrorist attacks. (Benazir Bhutto's assassination is an exception). In terms of death and destruction, this new terrorism strikes deep. The magnitude of loss is that of high proportions, while the message is effectively conveyed to

the political and economic leadership

2. Emphasis on National Security

A renewed emphasis on national security coupled with sharing of intelligence culminated in the ushering in of a new era in the conduct of international relations. Even as the grand international coalition cobbled up by USA against terrorism developed cracks in its ranks due to intimidatory tactics adopted by militants (e.g. rail blast in Madrid causing withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq), the nation states are compelled to co-operate more on diplomatic front for mutual benefit (e.g. extradition process made less cumbersome). Moreover, the security related spending of the nation-states is on the increase, which put severe strain on national economics.

3. The Paramount Use of Media to Influence International Opinion:

While both terrorists and those fighting them use media to the hilt to propagate their standpoints, the resultant credibility crisis is enormous (e.g. the practice of embedded journalists during Operation Iraqi Freedom). Today's terrorists want the international community to know the scale of atrocities for which the media comes handy. Also terrorists use media to reach out to their own constituents as well as their sympathizers, as is evident from Bin Laden's Speeches telecast over Arab networks like Al Jazeera and Al Arabia.

4. Enormous Possibilities for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Terrorism as the Availability of Sophisticated WMDs in the Global Black Market Increases:

Technological advances with regard

Underground Railways

London was the first city to have an underground railway. It was opened on Jan. 10, 1863. Budapest in Hungary had its underground railways next, in 1896. Glasgow (UK), Boston (USA) and Paris (France) had underground railways by 1900.

to weapons have increased the ability of terrorist to nullify the nation state's superior firepower. The acquisition of weapons of mass destruction is easier than ever. (Remember the Abdul Qadir Khan episode). Also the clandestine Sale of WMDs by North Korea, some erstwhile Soviet Republics etc. add to this threat. The advances in communication and Information Technology have also facilitated world wide terrorist operations. Cyber terrorism could be a threat of the future, with telecommunications and Computer system of nations and private organizations becoming easier to penetrate.

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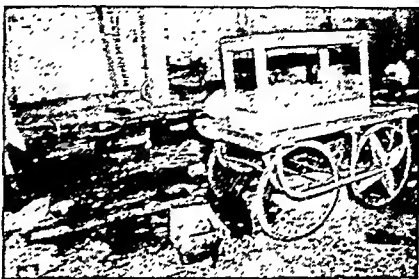
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The UN, an agency once regarded the ultimate one to address the issue of global terrorism, is today a pale replica of its illustrious past. The vacuum left by the UN is filled today by the US as the world policeman. As speculation is rife

over the possible role of the UN in the post occupation scenario in Iraq, no one is willing to write it off completely either.

7. The Grand Dilemma of the Established Islamic States:

Major Islamic polities are groping in the dark as to whether the state should crack down the anti-American militants operating from their territory. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan and Indonesia share this dilemma to varying degrees. Also, the possible domestic backlash in the form of adverse public



The Jaipur blast

opinion cause these states to tread cautiously.

8. The Moral Support Extended to the Terrorist Cause:

There is a growing realization that terrorism is the only option to ensure self determination of a people. The resultant moral support of the international community for the cause of terrorists is subjected to a careful analysis. In addition to this, groups fighting established states through guerilla activities often receive moral as well as logistical support of other states. For example, the goodwill of international community on Palestine cause expressed

The Seven Summits

Climbing to the top of the highest mountains on the seven continents is the biggest mountaineering challenge. There are two contenders for the highest mountain in continent Australia. The Carstensz Pyramid (Punack Jaya) is the tallest in Oceania. If Australia considered the only continental country in the region, Mt. Kosciuszko, is the tallest.

ing causes of global terrorism with
stern imperialism and militant Islamism
ght not be a difficult task. But at a
ore conceptual level, this could raise
ore questions than answers. Probably
ington's prediction of the "Clash of
ilizations and the Remaking of the world
der" has already begun to materialize

**Impact of Terrorism on
Contemporary Global Order**
Recent trends in international terror-
ism may be summed up as follows.

A Dramatic Increase in the Quality, Quantity and Impact of Terror

As the struggle between established na-
tional armies and the terrorists get more
and more intense, a hitherto latent phe-
nomenon - identification of soft targets
for terror attacks - has surfaced in the new
millennium. In this new wave that started
with the attack of World Trade Centre on
September 11, 2001, killing thousands
of innocent civilians, the awesome fire
power, coordinatory effect as well as
strong determination of modern day ter-
rorists are amply displayed. Episodes such
as assassination of Israeli athletes during
Munich Olympics 1972, killing of Swedish
Prime Minister Olaf Palme, Rajeev Gandhi
of India, etc are things of the past. Today,
the random killing of ordinary citizens
is on the rise as athletes, diplomats,
heads of states and politicians are heavily
insulated against terrorist attacks. (Benazir
Bhutto's assassination is an exception). In
terms of death and destruction, this new
terrorism strikes deep. The magnitude
of loss is that of high proportions, while
the message is effectively conveyed to

the political and economic leadership.

2. Emphasis on National Security

A renewed emphasis on national security
coupled with sharing of intelligence cul-
minated in the ushering in of a new era
in the conduct of international relations.
Even as the grand international coalition
cobbled up by USA against terrorism de-
velop cracks in its ranks due to intimidatory
tactics adopted by militants (e.g. rail blasts
in Madrid causing withdrawal of Spanish
troops from Iraq), the nation states are
compelled to co-operate more on diplo-
matic front for mutual benefit (e.g. ex-
tradition process made less cumbersome).
Moreover, the security related spending of
the nation-states is on the increase, which
put severe strain on national economics.

3. The Paramount Use of Media to Influence International Opinion:

While both terrorists and those fighting
them use media to the hilt to propagate
their standpoints, the resultant credibility
crisis is enormous (e.g. the practice of
embedded journalists during Operation
Iraqi Freedom). Today's terrorists want
the international community to know
the scale of atrocities for which the media
comes handy. Also terrorists use media to
reach out to their own constituents as well
as their sympathizers, as is evident from
Bin Laden's Speeches telecast over Arab
networks like Al Jazeera and Al Arabia.

4. Enormous Possibilities for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Terrorism as the Availability of Sophisticated WMDs in the Global Black Market Increases:

Technological advances with regard

Underground Railways

London was the first city to have an underground railway. It was opened on Jan. 10, 1863. Budapest in Hungary had its underground railways next, in 1896. Glasgow (UK), Boston (USA) and Paris (France) had underground railways by 1900.

Indo-US Nuclear Deal

R. Prasannan

Chief of Bureau, *The Week*, Delhi

WHEN Indian external Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed the India-US nuclear deal, popularly called the 123 agreement, on October 11, 2008, it marked the end of nearly three and half decades of India's isolation from global nuclear technology and commerce. Not that India suffered much in those three and half decades in terms of technology. Each act of 'isolating' sanction had been viewed as a challenge by Indian scientists who had been pursuing their science on their own and developing technologies. By the time the sanctions came to be lifted, they were already on the road to build a prototype thorium reactor about which even the advanced world knew precious little.

But it was in the world of nuclear commerce that India suffered. In 1974 India had conducted the peaceful nuclear explosion (PNE) and the world had come down on India like a tonne of bricks. Within months, the big powers took the initiative to form an informal club of countries called the Nuclear Suppliers Group, of countries that traded in nuclear materials ranging from huge reactors and vital uranium fuel to small components, and subcomponents in nuclear industry machinery. The Nuclear Suppliers Group agreed among themselves that none of its members would trade in nuclear materials with a country that had not signed

the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty.

India had been refusing to sign the NPT on the ground that it discriminated between nuclear weapon states and non-weapon states. In India's view, the NPT had been devised as a mechanism to retain the monopoly of the big five and deny the same to other states. India on the other hand had been arguing for universal nuclear disarmament towards which the NPT gave no concrete promise or undertaking. India's PNE of 1974 had also led to sudden termination of supply of nuclear fuel to the Tarapur reactors which India had built.

In the three and half decades that followed the PNE, India built some 15 reactors, providing an installed capacity of 3310 megawatts electric (MWe), which accounts for just three per cent of India's installed electricity generation capacity.

The main constraint on India's nuclear power programme has been the low availability of uranium within the country. Nuclear Power Corporation of India data show that most of the reactors were running on low capacity because of, as the Planning Commission noted, "non-availability of nuclear fuel because the development of domestic mines has not kept pace with addition of generating capacity."

Thus for many years, India was depending on scarcely-given imported uranium for Tarapur, and scarcely available domestic uranium for other

The Fall of Iceland

The tiny country Iceland, which, with a ranking of 0.968, had the highest HDI ranking in 2007 turned virtually bankrupt in Oct. 2008 as the global financial crisis wiped out its economy.

through various UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories of West Bank and Gaza strip prompted terrorist groups located in Palestine territory to intensify their suicide bombing operations against Israeli citizens. It is an irony that the same kind of international goodwill enjoyed by the Zionists helped them to establish Israel in 1948. This goodwill no longer exists as Israel resorted to eliminate Hamas leaders one by one and went on to proclaim intention to eliminate Yassar Arafat, the President of Palestine. Never the less the tendency of terrorist groups in Islamic world to legitimize the atrocities committed by them in the name of 'Jihad' or 'holy war' is not appreciated by the world.

9. India and the changing phase of cross-border terrorism:

The last part is devoted to address the multifarious concerns of India in dealing with terrorism. When terror emanates from a number of sources against the western world, it comes from a single

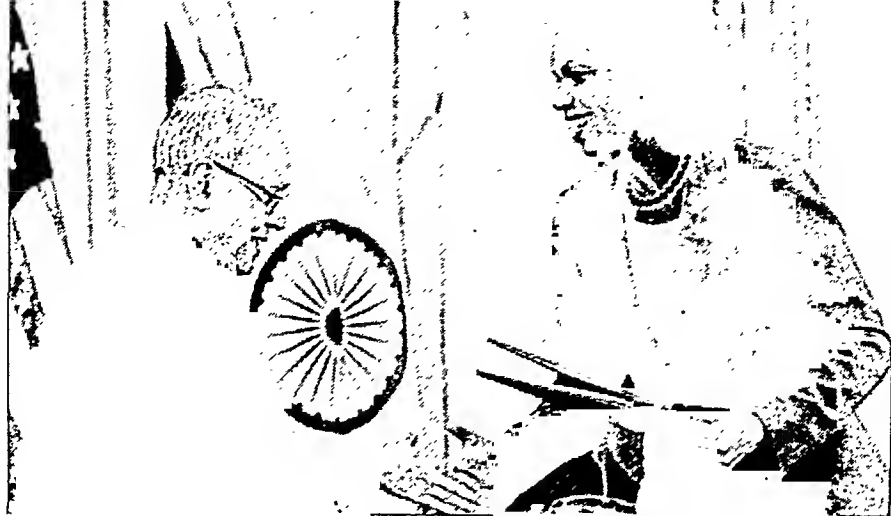
territorial source against India-the Pak soil. Never the less India sees m in being seen as an eager and will partner in the western world's fi against global terrorism, despite country's refusal to send troops to Iraq Pakistan spends so much energy in try to flush out the Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters operating in Waziristan area Pakistan in order to appease the W India may well be the real beneficia

Crisis of Global Security

Long-term implications of the crisis global security are many. It is feared t even legitimate struggles may be affect badly by the emerging perception ab terrorism. States feel more insecure n given the range of possibilities of uncoventional encounters in a globalized wo It is not simply a process of globalizat of capital and labor that is taking place present, but a process of globalization crimes and terrorism that surpass the p of the former, even dictating the cou and direction of economic globalizati

Some Major Terrorist Attacks of Recent Years

Bombing of US embassies (07/08/1998) which marked the beginning of a new era in global terrorism. Death toll : 220 ■ Attack on USS Cole, an American battleship (12/10/2000). Death toll : 17 ■ Attack on World Trade Centre & Pentagon using hijacked passenger aircrafts (11/09/2001). Death toll: About 3000 ■ Attack on synagogue in Tunisia (11/04/2002). Several tourists, mostly German, killed ■ Attack on Night Clubs, in Bali, Indonesia killing tourists (12/10/2002). Death toll: 202 ■ Suicide bombing at a housing compound for westerners in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (12/05/03). Death toll: 35 ■ Suicide bombing at 2 synagogues (15/12/03). Death toll: 23 ■ Bomb blasts in trains killing commuters in Madrid, Spain (11/03/04). Death toll: 191 ■ Head of Iraqi Governing Council assassinated in a suicide attack on 17/05/04 ■ The transport system, including Metro Rail, came under suicide attack (7/7/05). Death toll: 52 ■ Bombing at Red Sea Resort of Sharm el-Sheikh (23/07/05). Death toll: 88 ■ Suicide attacks in Bali, Indonesia (01/10/05). Death toll: 23 ■ Suicide attack on Benazir Bhutto's arrival in Pakistan from exile, killing PPP activists (18/10/07). Death toll: 150 ■ Benazir Bhutto assassinated during election campaign at Rawalpindi (27/12/07).



Pranab Mukherjee with Condoleezza Rice

issued the now famous July 18 statement in 2005. The July 18 statement was essentially a statement of political intentions, and not a deal as popularly misconstrued, issued jointly by the leaders of the two countries.

In this statement, the US recognised that "as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states." So the US President would "seek agreement from the Congress to adjust US laws and policies," and "work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India."

In turn, India promised to identify and separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities and programmes in a phased manner, and to place its civilian facilities under IAEA safeguards, and to continue its unilateral moratorium on further nuclear

testing. It may be mentioned here that after the 1998 nuclear weapon tests, India had unilaterally declared a moratorium on nuclear testing. The significance of the declaration was that for the first time, the United States had recognised India's military nuclear programme.

Accordingly, India worked out a separation plan which was shared with Parliament on March 7, 2006. In that the Prime Minister stated that "India will identify and offer for IAEA safeguards 14 thermal power reactors between 2006-14. There are 22 thermal power reactors in operation or currently under construction in the country. Fourteen of these will be placed under safeguards by 2014 in a phased manner." India would also place under safeguards all future civilian thermal power reactors, but India would determine the right to determine

Solar Rickshaw

The state-of-the-art solar powered region of the humble cycle-rickshaw, unveiled in New Delhi, is seen as a solution to India's traffic woes. The 'soleckshaw' can be pedalled or run on 936-volt solar battery.

ctors. The only exception was the Kudankulam project, built by the Russians and running on Russia-supplied fuel. It is estimated even the currently operating power reactors would require about 430 tonnes of natural uranium a year, whereas India's uranium production is less than 300 tonnes per year. In other words, there is shortage even with the currently operating civil reactors. At the same time, with an economy that is growing at nine percent and more, India's energy needs are only expected to grow. Petroleum prices are shooting up every day, and once India enters the world energy market as a major consumer, the petroleum prices would shoot up sky-high. While India was compelled into the nuclear deal by the reality of a crippling uranium shortage within the country, the US was compelled into the deal, and the rest of the world cheered, because of their fear of India trying to corner larger and larger share of the world's petroleum production. It was in this context that India initiated diplomatic exercises to end its nuclear isolation, which had been further tightened after the 1998 nuclear weapon tests. The problem were manifold. India was not still willing to sign the NPT nor willing to give up its nuclear weapons programme. And all the existing nuclear trade regimes stipulated signing of NPT as a precondition for exchange of nuclear materials, technology or investment. The Russians were learnt to be willing to help, as they did with Kudankulam, but it is learnt that when Russian expressed its helplessness in large-scale nuclear commerce with India. It was in this context, and apparently the nudging of the Russians, that India

initiated diplomatic efforts with Washington in a bid to end India's nuclear isolation. The reality was that the United States, being the sole superpower, wielded considerable influence in the regime structures such as NSG, where it could prevail upon member states to make exception for India, a country which, though not a signatory to NPT had not violated any laws of non-proliferation. Unlike Pakistan, India had not stolen nuclear technology from any other country not transferred the technology to another country.

The problem however was that the United States itself had a domestic law that prohibited its administration and the country's business enterprises from entering into any sort of nuclear commerce with a country that had not signed the NPT. So, simply put, the United States, which was being approached by India to prevail upon other countries to trade in nuclear materials with India, itself could not trade with India because of this domestic law.

All the same, there was a small window of opportunity. Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act also provided that the US could enter into nuclear cooperation with a country that has never been a party to NPT if that country (in this case India) had been responsible in its non-proliferation conduct, had a democratic form of government, had a foreign policy that was congruent to that of the US, and so on.

To enable such commerce, exploiting the provision contained in Section 123, the United States Congress would have to pass a specific law.

It was in this background, recognising these facts, that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George Bush

How Recession Can Help

A North Carolina professor, who studied death rates from 1972 to 1991, found that for every 1% increase in unemployment rates, there was a 0.5% decline in the death rate. Reasons: People eat more healthily, drive less and car crashes are fewer.

India. The 123 agreement recognised India's right to reprocess spent fuel though under IAEA safeguards. India will have to build anew transparent facilities to reprocess the fuel imported and used in its civil energy programmes.

The other issue that rankled the strategic community was the provision in the Hyde Act that virtually prohibited any further nuclear weapon testing by India. Both the political left (the communist parties that supported Manmohan Singh's United Progressive Alliance government) and the political right (the opposition National democratic Alliance led by the Bhartiya Janata Party) took this up as an attempt by the US to bring India within the NPT. The government's argument was that they had successfully resisted all attempts by the US to include any prohibitive reference to nuclear testing by India. In case of a test or any perceived violation of the agreement, the US would have the right to demand all the material it had sold to India, but the US would have to compensate India for that. Moreover, there was the cushion of the matter having to be decided by the US President in one year, and in that one year he could also consider whether the India was testing in response to tests conducted by other hostile powers. Another achievement cited by the government with respect to the 123 agreement was that it had wrested recognition for India's military nuclear programme. All the bilateral documents till now had described India as a country "with advanced nuclear technology". The 123 text went further to use the term 'military programme' thus recognising its existence. It said: "The agreement shall be implemented in a

manner so as not to hinder or otherwise interfere with any other activities involving the use of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, equipment, components, information or technology and military nuclear facilities produced, acquired or developed by them independent of this agreement for their own purpose."

The political storm within India erupted after this, as the government got ready to approach the IAEA. The left parties pointed out that there were no fuel supply assurances, whereas the government countered that the US would support and Indian effort to develop a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply over the lifetime of Indian reactors, and also that if at all there is a disruption, the US and India would jointly convene a group of friendly countries to pursue such measures as would restore fuel supply to India.

As the government approached the IAEA, the issue became political. The left parties wanted to see the text of the safeguards agreement (to be entered into with IAEA) before the government went to IAEA. The left's charge was that the government was going to bind India's entire civilian nuclear energy programme into IAEA safeguards in perpetuity without getting concrete assurances on uninterrupted fuel supply. The left's argument was that the so-called corrective measures were vague and ineffective.

The left parties thus withdrew support to the UPA government on July 8, 2008. The government survived a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha thanks to the support of new-found allies Samajwadi Party and a few independents.

Hydrogen

93 per cent of all atoms in the universe are hydrogen atoms. On Earth, it is relatively rare in the atmosphere - only 5 of every 100 million litres of air are hydrogen but hydrogen combined with oxygen forms all the water in the world's oceans, lakes and

whether a reactor is civilian or military. In other words, eight reactors would be kept for military purposes, and would not be open to inspection by IAEA. The Prime Minister also assured Parliament that "India will not accept safeguards on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) and the Fast Breeder Test reactor (FBTR), both located at Kalpakkam."

Fast-breeder technology is being developed by India on its own as part of the three-stage nuclear energy development plan in the final stag of which India would use its own immense wealth of thorium for producing nuclear energy.

The separation plan was necessary because countries selling nuclear fuel or technology could supply only to IAEA-safeguarded reactors. And the rules prohibited any diversion of any material from a civilian plant to a military plant.

Thus the idea, as it evolved, was that India would be free to obtain fuel or any other nuclear-related material for its safeguarded civilian reactors. India's military programme would be separate, and there would be no link between the two.

As India was working on the separation plan and approaching the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United States was in the process of legislating. The bill that would enable the United States administration and the country's business enterprises to engage in nuclear commerce with India, later known as Henry J. Hyde Act or simply Hyde Act.

The bill as passed by the House of representatives, was a little disquieting to India. It was felt that there were provisions which sought to limit India's strategic and foreign policy autonomy. For instance

there was a provision that the US administration should "secure India's full and active participation in the US efforts to dissuade, isolate and if necessary sanction and contain Iran for its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction." There were also provisions that sought to limit the production of fissile material in India's unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. Another provision exhorted the US administration to bring about "significant changes in the production by India of nuclear weapons."

Some of these provisions did create a political hue and cry in India, and even while going ahead with the deal, the government made it clear that there were "certain extraneous and prescriptive provisions in the legislation." India's stance was that it would expect a legislation that contained the spirit of the July 18 statement, and that its own conduct would be guided only by the bilateral 123 agreement, and not by domestic American legislations. The Hyde Act has made several references to curbing India's strategic programme, but the government then took a firm view that the strategic programme would remain outside the purview of discussions, and that India would not accept anything less than what was contained in the July 18 statement and the separation plan that the Prime Minister had shared with India's parliament.

There was also confusion about the right to reprocess spent fuel. The scientific community was insistent on getting this right. Like Russia, France and Japan, India has been following a closed-fuel cycle programme in which spent fuel is reprocessed. This is interestingly one area in which the Americans are far behind.

The Gecko Bandage

The science that allows a gecko lizard to cling to a ceiling has been harnessed to create a waterproof adhesive bandage that can repair internal injuries without the need for sutures or staples.

technology). The Americans are likely to look for collaborative ventures with Indian private sector, rather than build wholesale plants in the public sector as the Russians have been doing. Anyway, with millions at stake, it is expected that US companies themselves will now do the lobbying work for India among the recalcitrant Congressmen. The new reality anyway is that India is now in nuclear business.

What about the military programme? It has to go on, away from the snooping eyes of IAEA inspectors. India will theoretically have the right to test nuclear devices, but practically that would involve swallowing the bitter pill of sanctions. But then as supporters of the deal point out, India had survived two bouts of sanctions. Secondly, if India's stated strategic nuclear

doctrine is to have only a minimum credible deterrent, would India have to go on testing newer devices? And if a hypothetical Indian test is in response to tests by China or Pakistan, would the United States interpret it as invoking Article 14 of the 123 agreement. For Article 14 says that the two countries "further agree to take into account whether the circumstances that may lead to termination or cessation resulted from a party's serious concern about a changed security environment or as a response to similar actions by other states which could impact national security."

Crudely put, if China or Pakistan tests a nuclear device and it is perceived that it would affect India's security, India may also test.

But then, all that would depend on the politics of that day.

Atomic Energy : Research Reactors

On August 4, 1956, India's first research reactor, the first of its kind in Asia, outside the Soviet Union, went into operation at Trombay. It used 4.5 kg of highly enriched uranium imported from UK as fuel; the reactor has a thermal power of one MW. Indian scientists constructed this entirely indigenously.

Since 1956, India set up nine research reactors (Cirus, Dhruva, Zerlina, Purnima I, Purnima II, Purnima III, Kamini, Fast Breeder Test Reactor and recently a low power criticality facility to carry out experiments on the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor, the construction of which is slated to start this year).

Indian scientists and engineers participated in the construction, commissioning and operation of Cirus. Canada provided full technical assistance. India's share by way of civil construction, ancillary equipment, engineering and administrative services was \$6.6 million. India fabricated half the fuel charge of Cirus indigenously and bought the rest from Canada. This helped India to master fuel fabrication technology.

BARC refurbished CIRUS reactor during 1997-2002; it is expected to operate with enhanced safety for a period of 20 years or even more.

The research reactors (Apsara, Cirus and Dhruva) are used to produce radioisotopes; carrying out basic research; shielding experiments; neutron activation analysis; neutron radiography; testing of neutron detector; R & D in reactor technology; manpower training; neutron beam research; development and testing of fuel assemblies among others. Other reactors were used in fast reactor studies, uranium-233 studies etc. The research reactors Apsara, Cirus and Dhruva produce radioisotopes regularly.

Once the safeguards agreement was approved by IAEA board of governors, the next step was getting the approval of the Nuclear Suppliers group to approve members countries trading in nuclear material with India. The NSG, a body that takes decision by consensus, approved it in September. In October the US president signed the Hyde Act, which had been passed by the Congress and the senate, into law and within days India and the United States signed the 123 agreement.

There were concerns in India till the President signed the Act into law regarding interpretations of several provisions. In the President's understanding of the law, it "made no changes to the terms of the 123 agreement". The President also reiterated that "the legislation does not change the fuel assurances that the US government has made to the government of India as recorded in the 123 agreement." The agreement also granted India "advance consent to reprocessing," which will be brought into effect upon the conclusion of arrangements and procedures for a dedicated reprocessing facility under IAEA safeguards.

As far as the Indian government is concerned the Hyde Act is only a law that enabled the US administration to enter into 123 agreement with India. If it had extraneous provisions, it is for the USA administration to tackled them. India would not be bound by the Hyde Act, but only by the 123 agreement which it negotiated with the US administration and signed.

The deal has now opened the world nuclear market for India to explore and shop. More than nuclear technology, what India requires from the world

market is nuclear fuel. Now it is up to India to negotiate with uranium-exporting countries and enter into deals.

American companies hope to benefit from the reactor market in India. India is now expected to amend its Atomic Energy Act to allow private and foreign investment in civil nuclear industry. At the US president stated upon signing the American legislation,, "the US will gain access to a growing market for civilian nuclear technologies and materials that will help American businesses create more jobs for our people at home.

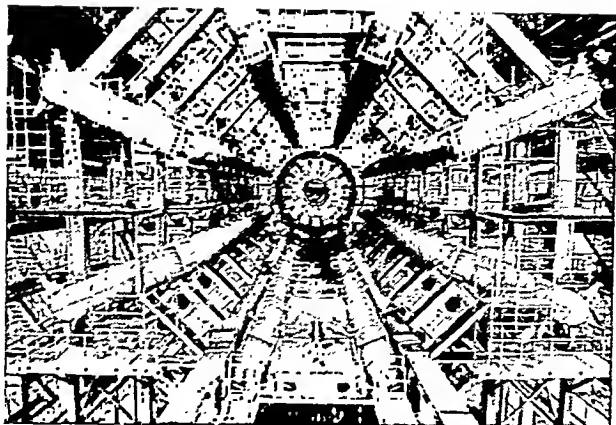
All the same, it does not mean that American companies are going to monopolise the Indian reactor market. Even before the Indo-US 123 agreement was signed, the French inked a civil nuclear agreement with India. The Russians, who have built the Kudankulam units with a total capacity of 2000 MW, are looking to build four more units for Kudankulam (and not necessarily at Kudankulam). At the year closed, the Russians were hopeful of bagging more than a quarter of India's nuclear power market. As Andre Cherkasenko, chairman of the board of directors of Russia's Atompromresursy, which supplies equipment to enterprises of the Federal Atomic Energy Agency, observed earlier in 2008, Russia can hope to build at least 10 reactors, each unit costing about \$2.5 million.

Indeed, the Americans would demand their pound of flesh from the \$ 100-billion market for having managed the whole show for India. The US may be striving to make India a part of the Nuclear Suppliers group, once India decides to enter the nuclear market as an exporter (perhaps o

Atomic Mass Unit

Atomic Mass Unit is a unit of mass equal to one-twelfth of the mass of an atom of carbon-12 (1.66033×10^{-27} kg). The unit is also called the dalton (after John Dalton).

of several fundamental particles. Some of these like protons and electrons have mass. Particles of light known as photons have no mass. Over 44 years ago, Peter Higgs, a British physicist proposed that a field (Higg's field) pervades the entire Universe and interacts with some particles giving them mass. This field may reveal itself as a particle, Higg's particle or Higg's boson.



Scientists have detected all fundamental particles except the Higgs boson, too heavy a particle to be made in existing particle accelerators. If LHC experiment detects Higgs boson, Peter Higgs, 79, an emeritus professor at the University of Edinburgh will win Nobel Prize. He may also collect a hundred dollar bet from Stephen Hawking, his arch rival!

Many maverick scientists will be happy if LHC does not detect Higg's boson. Then life will be more challenging, as they can start all over again!

Many scientists believe that the Universe has more than four (space and time) dimensions. LHC experiment may bring out evidence for the extra dimensions. Gravity does not fit well into the description of currently known forces. It is relatively weak. Maybe our Universe is a part of a much larger multidimensional reality; gravity may leak into other dimensions apparently making it weaker. LHC may throw light on these dimensions.

According to cosmologists, Big Bang

created equal amounts of matter and anti matter. Presently, we see only matter. Some experiments indicated that some matter particles decay at different rates from their anti particles. One of the LHC experiments gives scientists an opportunity to study matter and anti matter.

Scientists believe that 96 percent of our Universe is missing. They call it dark matter. They proposed that all known particles have undetected 'superpartners'. LHC experiment may detect them. Supersymmetric partners may explain the mystery of missing matter. Dark matter does exist as astronomers have observed gravitational effects of large amount of dark matter.

Do we gain anything more from this indecently expensive LHC experiments?

LHC experiments may enable scientists to focus and control proton beams, to make them stop inside deep-seated tumours and blast them away. Physicians can then carry out proton therapy more effectively, widely and with fewer

Atomic Number

Atomic Number is the number of protons in a nucleus of an atom. It determines the position of the element in the periodic table and, in a neutral atom, is equal to the number of electrons surrounding the nucleus. It is also known as proton number.

The Big Bang Experiment

Dr. K.S.Parthasarathy

Cosmologists believe that the Universe started with a Big Bang, 13.7 billion years ago. Why and how, we do not know. A billionth of a second after the Bang, matter expanded in all directions leading to the creation of the Universe.

Scientists expect that the 5.46 billion dollar Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment, which began on September 10 this year, will create on earth the conditions that existed in that billionth of a second after the Big Bang. LHC will help scientists to answer many profound questions. It may take a few years to complete.

LHC is the world's highest-energy particle accelerator complex, intended to make opposing beams of hadrons-particles such as protons or lead ions which interact via the strong force-to collide at up to 99.99 percent the speed of light.

It took nearly 20 years to complete. It is housed in a 27 km tunnel about 100 metres underground in Geneva near the Swiss-French border.

LHC has 1600 superconducting magnets housed end to end in the tunnel, mainly steering, focussing and controlling a beam of particles called protons speeding up clock-wise very close to the speed of light. A similar beam will thread through counter clock-wise, each beam will zip around the 27 km tunnel 11,245 times a second.

Scientists will squeeze the beams to

about the width of a human hair; the beams will travel in two pipes maintained at ultra high vacuum to ensure that many protons will smash together at the rate of 600 million "mini" Big Bangs as they cross paths at locations where the pipe merge at allotted points near four humongous detectors which will monitor the debris for interesting events.

One of them called Compact Muon Standard (CMS) detector is 21 metre long, 15 metre wide and 15 metre high and weighs 12,500 tons! Others are equally massive and complex. The entire LHC is kept at about -271 degree Celsius by cooling it with liquid helium circulated by massive refrigeration units. At low temperature the coils of the magnets offer low resistance to the flow of current.

The LHC requires cooling of 50,000 tons of equipment to temperatures that are colder than that of outer space.

The experiment may succeed only if scientists complete about 1400 (some of them mind boggling) tests. Fine-tuning of the equipment to take it to the final stage has begun.

The events that occur during the "mini" Big Bangs may provide information about the early state of matter.

LHC experiment may answer some of the most fundamental questions in physics. The currently accepted "Standard Model" of matter predicted the existence

Lithium

Lithium was discovered in 1817 by Swedish scientist Johan August Arfvedson. It takes its name from the Latin word for rock, although it is actually a metal.

Wars and Battles

K. Obeldullah

Battle of Plassey

The battle which took place on 23 June 1757 at Plassey in West Bengal for not more than a few hours was the one that established British rule of India for the next 190 years. The battle was waged between the forces of the East India Company under Robert Clive and the army of Bengal's last independent Nawab, Siraj-ud-daulah.

Nawab was assisted by the French and had some French troops with him. The British, worried about being outnumbered reached out to the Nawab's army chief Mir Jafar who was an aspirant to the Nawab's throne. Mir Jafar though assembled his troops near the battlefield, made no move to actually join the battle, causing Nawab's army to be defeated. Nawab fled and was later captured and executed. As a result, the entire province of Bengal fell to the East India Company and Mir Jafar installed as their puppet Nawab.

Crimean War

The first major military engagement covered by newspaper reporters and photographers, it was fought mainly in the Crimean peninsula in the present day Ukraine from 1853 to 1856 between Imperial Russia on one side and an alliance of France, Britain, the Kingdom of Sardinia, and the Ottoman Empire on the other. The main cause of the war was Russia's desire to expand and gain access

to Mediterranean ports.

In July 1853, the Russians occupied the Turkish provinces of Moldavia and Walachia and in October Turkey declared war on Russia. In March 1854, Britain and France allied with Turkey, out of concern at the general Russian threat to their interests in the Balkans. Their siege and bombardment of Sevastopol was followed by major battles at Balaklava and Inkerman with heavy casualties on both sides.

An armistice was concluded in February 1856 and the Treaty of Paris signed in March. The scandalous treatment of the troops on both sides, particularly the wounded, depicted by war correspondents, prompted the work of the British nurse Florence Nightingale.

India's First Uprising

Known as the Sepoy Mutiny, the Great Rebellion and the Revolt of 1857, it was India's first war against the British colonial rule. It began as an uprising of sepoys (soldiers) of the British East India Company's army on the 10th of May 1857, in Meerut (now in Uttar Pradesh) and soon erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions mainly in the northern and central parts of India.

On the next day, the rebels reached Delhi and were joined by the people. They captured the Red Fort and installed the last Mughal ruler, Bahadur Shah Za-

The World War I

H. G. Wells called it "the war to end all wars". It involved more countries and caused greater destruction than any previous wars. It spread from Western Europe to the M...

side effects.

The mega project may lead to technologies that allow people to travel faster than the speed of light!

The six experiments at the LHC will produce after due filtering, 15 petabytes (10 to the 15th power) of data annually to be stored at CERN. If you record them on CD, it will form a pile of over 19 km high annually! An LHC grid, a global network of 60,000 computers, will convey the data to a few thousand scientists who will analyze the data.

Grid computing may be more widely used in future, for new drug research and to produce more effective nuclear power. We may start seeing the technology used in daily life to regulate traffic, to predict the weather and even to boost a flagging economy.

What is India's role in this high tech experiment?

Fruitful collaboration of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) since the 70s helped in inking a cooperation agreement for a ten-year period between the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and CERN in 1991.

India will get a chance to increase the pace of accelerator development and to give a thrust to its experimental high-energy research programme.

In March 1996, DAE and CERN signed a protocol under which India joined the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment and agreed to make "in-kind" contributions in the form of skilled manpower, software and hardware to the tune of US \$25 million. In LHC project, India like USA

has "observer" status.

As "in-kind" contribution, India provided precision magnet positioning stands, jacks, corrector magnets, quench heater protection supplies, local protection units, circuit breakers etc.

India contributed to the LHC complex two large capacity (50,000 litre) liquid nitrogen tanks which satisfied exacting specifications. Cryogenic experts from Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), Indore, participated in the analysis of the performance data generated during commissioning of LHC cryo-systems and to help debug the deficiencies.

Scientists from RRCAT, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited etc. spent 125 man-years towards magnetic tests and measurements and help in commissioning LHC sub systems.

Universities of Delhi, Punjab, Aligarh, Rajasthan, Jammu, Viswa Bharati and Indian Institute of Technology are also participating in the LHC experiment.

Indian Scientists took part in building, installation and analysis of Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) and A Large Collider Experiment (ALICE), two of the four detector systems of LHC.

DAE signed a protocol to help CERN in building software for LHC data analysis. It involved 600 man-months amounting to 7.5 million Swiss Francs. LHC experiment, a project in which 200 scientists of Indian origin are participating is a shining example of international cooperation.

Atomic Theory

Atomic Theory is the theory that an atom is the smallest particle of an element that can take part in a chemical reaction. Democritus is credited with first conceiving the idea.

had become a hero in a war against Italy seized control of the government in 1799, thus ending the revolution.

Chinese Revolution

It refers to the final stage of fighting (1946-1949) in the Chinese Civil War between the Nationalists and the Communists which eventually led to the Communist rule and the establishment of the People's Republic of China. When the Japanese who had occupied China surrendered in 1945, the Nationalists led by Chiang Kai-Shek and the Communists under the leadership of Mao Zedong began a scramble to seize territory that had been vacated by the Japanese. The USSR helped the communists, and the US provided the Nationalists with military supplies and equipment.

Although the Nationalists advanced at the initial stages, the communists could control all the countryside in north China and Manchuria. In January 1949 Beijing was captured by the communists and on October 1 Mao declared the establishment of the People's Republic. Chiang with his troops, and supporters retreated to the island of Taiwan (then Known as Formosa) and proclaimed the Republic of China in December 1949 with Taipei as its capital.

Communist Party chairman Mao Zedong launched a political campaign in 1966 to eliminate his rivals and revolutionise Chinese society. Known as the Cultural Revolution and directed by Mao's wife, Jiang Qing it lasted till 1976 causing unprecedented social chaos and political persecution. Thousands died and millions were imprisoned or exiled.

Falklands War

It was a war between Britain and Argentina in 1982 over the disputed Falkland Islands in the South Pacific Ocean east of Argentina. The conflict began on April 2 with Argentina's invasion and occupation of the islands which they claim as their own territory and call as Malvinas Islands. Britain sent its troops to dislodge the Argentines. Air, sea and land battles broke out which ended with the surrender of Argentine forces on June 14. The war resulted in 258 British and 649 Argentine deaths

American Civil War

The deadliest war in American history, it raged for four years (1861-65) and cost more than 600,000 lives. It was a conflict between the United States of America led by President Abraham Lincoln and 11 southern states that declared their secession from the US and formed the Confederate States of America led by Jefferson Davis.

When Lincoln won the 1860 presidential election, the Southerners feared he would abolish black slavery which they considered as the backbone of their agricultural economy. This prompted 11 southern states to secede from the Union and organise themselves into a Confederation. The socio-economic division between North and South also played a part in the conflict. The war ended with the surrender of the Confederate forces.

It led to the abolition of slavery throughout the US and ensured the supremacy of the Federal government over the states. Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865 by a Southern sympathiser.

The Second World War

WW II lasted six years (1939-1945) and killed as many as 17 million soldiers and a greater number of civilians. Like the World War I, it also was fought primarily between two power blocs—the Axis (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the Allies (Britain, the USSR, China and the US).

ar, as Emperor of Hindustan. Cawnpore (Kanpur) fell to the sepoys and Lucknow was besieged.

The British were stunned. They could retake Delhi only in September 1857, and that too with help from fresh reinforcements from abroad. They plundered Delhi and killed many Indian soldiers and civilians indiscriminately. British forces arrested Bahadur Shah who was later presented with the heads of his sons who had been shot dead by a British army officer. Yet they could completely suppress the rebellion only in 1858.

The British government abolished the East India Company and started ruling India directly through its representative (Viceroy). It made India a part of the British Empire and in 1877 Queen Victoria took the title of Empress of India. Bahadur Shah was exiled to Rangoon, in Burma (Myanmar) where he died in 1862, finally bringing an end to the Mughal dynasty which had ruled India for about four hundred years.

Boer War

It is also known as South African War. And the war often called the 'Boer War' is in fact the second of the two Boer Wars. These were fought between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics, the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (Transvaal Republic), founded by settlers, mainly of Dutch and, German descent who settled in the Cape of Good Hope from 1652. The First Boer War (1880-1881), also known as the 'Transvaal War' was a relatively brief conflict in which Boers revolted against a British attempt to an-

nex the Transvaal, and re-established an independent republic.

The Second Boer War (1899-1902) was rather a lengthy war involving large numbers of troops from many British possessions. Well equipped by Germany, the Boer forces took the offensive first in 1899. But the arrival of the British reinforcements turned the tide and the Boers had to retreat and resort to guerrilla tactics. The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging in May 1902. The Boer republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State were converted into British colonies which in turn became parts of the Union of South Africa.

French Revolution

The first of the major modern revolutions, it began in 1789 as an uprising by the French people against autocracy and aristocracy. Caused by various political, social and economic conditions, it continued till Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power in 1799.

The notorious Bastille prison in Paris was stormed by an angry mob. King Louis XIV was dethroned and beheaded, soon to be followed by his wife, Marie Antoinette. Aristocratic and clerical privileges were abolished and the traditional institutions were replaced with new ones based upon sovereignty of the people, liberty of the individual and equality of all before the law.

But soon the revolution began to go wrong as a reign of terror gripped the country and the radical elements in the revolution started to struggle for power among themselves. Napoleon Bonaparte, a young army general who became who

Two Power Blocs

WW I was fought primarily between two European power blocs-the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary) and the Allies (Britain, France and Russia). Later Turkey joined the Central Powers and Italy joined the Allies.

Evolution of International Monetary System

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Human ingenuity invented money as a medium of exchange, in order to avert the inconveniences of barter. Government made it legal tender. From the latter part of the 19th century to the present day, one could notice substantial changes in international money and the monetary system.

International Monetary System Under the Gold Standard

International gold standard prevailed mainly during the period 1870-1914. It was based on two pillars, called 'rules of gold standard game'. These rules were (1) interconvertibility of gold into currency and currency into gold and (2) free import and export of gold. During the gold standard period, the leading countries in the world agreed that exchange rate stability should be the core objective of monetary policy. Each country was prepared to forego other objectives to realize the automatic achievement of exchange rate stability.

The Demise of International Gold Standard

The international gold standard was working fairly well till the outbreak of the First World War. In 1914 when the First World War started, the leading countries began violating the rules of gold standard game. But they declared that once the war was over, they would reinstate

gold standard. In 1918, WWI was over. Under the changed scenario, the major countries found it very difficult to practise gold standard.

In the early 1930s, there was the Great Depression which made international gold standard unviable. With depression, the main objective of economic policy also shifted from exchange rate stability to full employment. The Second World War commenced in 1939, inflicting a mortal blow to gold standard.



During the inter-war period, leading countries in the world experienced three crucial crises. These were 'adjustment crisis', 'liquidity crisis' and 'confidence crisis'. Under international gold standard, there was an adjustment mechanism i.e., allowing inflation in trade surplus countries and deflation in deficit countries. Nevertheless, this mechanism did not work during the interwar period, leading

Korean War

The first major military conflict after the World War II and the first war in which the UN militarily intervened was the Korean War. It involved South Korea and the US on one side and North Korea, China and the USSR on the other.

Wars of the 20th Century

Boer Wars	: 1880 - 1902
Russo-Japanese War	: 1904 - 1905
First World War	: 1914 - 1918
Sino - Japanese War	: 1931 - 1933, 1937 - 1945
Spanish Civil War	: 1936 - 1939
Second World War	: 1939 - 1945
Korean War	: 1950 - 1953
Arab - Israeli Wars	: 1948-49, 1956, 1967, 1973-74
Vietnam War	: 1954 - 1975
Falklands War	: 1982
Iran - Iraq War	: 1980 - 1990
Gulf War	: 1991
Bosnian War	: 1992 - 1998

Spanish Civil War

A major conflict in Spain that began on July 17, 1936 after an attempted coup d'État against the democratically elected Socialist Republican government. It ended on April 1, 1939, with the victory of the rebels and the founding of a dictatorship led by the Nationalist General Francisco Franco. Gen. Franco, ruled Spain until his death almost 40 years later.

While the rebels (Nationalists) received aid from Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, the Republicans got support from the USSR as well as the International Brigade comprising volunteers from all over the world. An estimated 500,000 people were killed in combat or by execution, or died as a result of wounds, hunger, malnutrition and war-engendered disease. 250,000 to 500,000 supporters of the losing side left Spain to avoid persecution.

The political and emotional reverberations of the war far transcended those of a

national conflict and was considered many as part of an international conflict between Fascism and democracy. The Second World War (1939-1945) broke out only five months after the end of the Spanish Civil War.

Nigerian Civil War

It is also known as the Biafran War which began when Biafra, the Ibo-dominated Eastern Region seceded from Nigeria in May 1967. It continued until Biafra surrendered in January 1970. Over one million people died during the conflict.

In January 1966 the government of Nigeria was overthrown by army officers belonging to Ibos and replaced by a military government under Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi. In July a second coup by Hausa officers of the Northern Region removed the government and installed Major-General Yakubu Gowon as the head of a new military government. Gowon replaced the country's four political regions into 12 states in order to give some of the smaller ethnic groups more political power. But the military government of the Eastern Region, Lt. Col. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, refused to accept the division of the Eastern Region into states and proclaimed the secession of the Eastern Region and declared it as the Republic of Biafra on May 30, 1967.

The federal government declared war on Biafra and imposed economic sanctions. After initial successes in the war the Biafran army suffered heavy losses and severe food shortages. In October 1967 the capital Enugu fell to Nigerian forces. Ojukwu fled the country on 11 January 1970, and Biafra formally surrendered on 15 January.

Founding of Israel

One of the bitterest struggles in modern history-the Arab-Israeli conflict-began with the founding of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948 in the land of Palestine.

of an institution for the reconstruction of Europe and the development of the Third world. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was designed to fulfil these objectives. The IBRD has become the main organ of the World Bank. The other constituents of the World Bank are the International Development Agency (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and regional institutions like the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Both are headquartered in Washington DC, America. They were also organized as 'twins' as there is only joint membership in these multilateral institutions. Further, both follow 'the system of weighted voting'.

In the Brettenwoods conference there was also the suggestion to set up an institution for the orderly development of international trade. So the International Trade Organisation (ITO) was mooted to discharge this function. However, the American Congress did not ratify the inception of the ITO which resulted in its abortion. The American Congress feared that a rule based organization would apply certain brakes in the country's international trade, adversely affecting to trade hegemony. Nevertheless, by 1947 American recognised the need for an international forum for the proper monitoring of international trade. In this direction, as an interim arrangement the USA proposed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which remained for more than 47 years and metamorphosed into the World Trade Organization (WTO) on January, 1, 1995.

The Collapse of the Brettenwoods Systems

The post-war international financial architecture was based on the American commitment in the International Monetary Conference that it would convert any amount of dollar into gold at a rate of \$35 per ounce of gold. By the end of the Second World War, America possessed about 70% of gold reserves of the world. But in due course of time, this American privilege was weakened due to the persistent trade deficit resulting from the prolonged Vietnam War and the financing of the very costly space research. In the late 1960s Japanese Yen (¥) and the German Deutschmark also rose up as powerful currencies of the world. These currencies began to displace the Dollar from its hard currency status. However in 1971 America unilaterally withdrew from its commitment of interconvertibility of the Dollar into gold. This resulted in the collapse of the IMF system. In the place of fixed exchange rate system, there arose 'floating' of currencies, which prevails even today. 'Floating' refers to a system of exchange rate determination on the basis of relative demand and supply of the currency concerned in the international money market. Floating paved the way for financial liberalization.

Financial Liberalization

In 1973 major producers of petroleum products formed a natural monopoly called Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). By employing the monopoly power it raised the price of petroleum products to a very high level. Owing to this price hike there emerged a

Bangladesh is Liberated

Bangladesh Liberation War was the first war that paved way for a new nation to emerge after splitting a post-colonial state. The conflict between East Pakistan and West Pakistan in 1971 ended with the liberation of the East under the name of Bangladesh.

to an adjustment crisis.

There was also a 'liquidity crisis'. Under the gold standard, gold was the basic international liquidity. At the time of the Second World War, there was a disproportion in the growth of 'merchandise' and international liquidity. As the elasticity of supply of gold was very low it could not cope with the then trade requirements of the world, resulting in a grave 'liquidity crisis'.



A dealer looks at computer screens inside the Korean Exchange Bank Seoul, Oct. 08

During the interwar period there was also a 'confidence crisis'. Countries lost their mutual trust. Each one gave importance to its internal policy objectives, rather than to foreign exchange rate disability. The policy followed by each country in this period was called 'beggar thy neighbour-policy'.

The Emergence of the Brettenwoods Systems

The 'money muddle' wreaked great havoc to the international political economy. A monetary conference was held in 1944 at Brettenwoods in New Hampshire in the U.S.A., which arrived at the decision of setting up three multilateral institu-

tions to redeem the world from the then financial and trade chaos. These were the International Bank Monetary Fund (IMF), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Trade Organisation (ITO).

The IMF was the mainstay of the new international monetary arrangement. It was constituted, specifically, to overcome the adjustment and liquidity crises of the inter-war period. It was formed as a pool of the world's currencies. The members of the IMF were bound to remit their quotas—a portion in gold and the other portion in domestic currency. When the members are in dire need of foreign exchange, they can avail the facilities of the Fund. As gold was the principal reserve asset and national currencies played only a subsidiary role in the IMF, the problem of world liquidity persisted. So on 28 July 1969, the IMF created Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as a new reserve asset. It is also called the 'paper gold' of the IMF. At the International Monetary conference, the USA made a commitment that it would purchase any amount of dollar at a price of \$35 per ounce of gold. By this commitment of perfect inter-convertibility between the dollar and gold, America could elevate dollar to the status of gold. It is also facilitated the fixed exchange rate system.

The Second World War destroyed Europe in general and Germany in particular. America, took the initiative in the reconstruction of Europe. It put forward an aid programme called the Marshall Aid programme to assist Germany in its reconstruction efforts. International Monetary conference proposed the formation

Vietnam War

Vietnam War was the longest war in American history and the first war in which America failed to achieve its goals. The war began in 1957 and ended in 1975 resulting in the death of nearly two million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans.

international cash transactions. This is famously known as the 'Tobin Tax'. But so far it has not been implemented.

Before the WWII, the pound sterling was the reserve currency of the world. But in the post-war era this privilege was taken over by the dollar. Even now dollar is the most predominant reserve currency in the world. Of late, the dollar has been losing its strength and euro, the common currency of European Union (EU) is emerging as a strong currency.

The Formation of European Monetary Union (EMU)

The European Union, as a regional supranational entity, has its origin in a proposal made by Schuman, a French Foreign Minister in 1950 who got merged the French and German Steel (iron) and Coal industries into a single framework. The Schuman plan gave birth in 1952 to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSE) with six European countries as members.

In 1957 in the Treaty of Rome the original six states (France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg) formed two organizations- the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the European Economic Community (EEC) which was later renamed European Community (EC). The Treaty of Rome visualized the promotion of European integration through various stages from the formation of free trade area to customs union, common market and an economic and monetary union.

In 1992, the famous Maastricht Treaty was signed in the Dutch city Maastricht which renamed EC into EU. The treaty

called for a monetary union with a common currency. In 1999 the 'Euro' came into existence. Now 13 countries have adopted the Euro.

Financial Crises and the International Monetary System

Even though neo-liberalism enabled the multidimensional advancement of international money and finance, it also made the 'system' very vulnerable and unstable. Since 1992 more than ten incidents of market turbulences and financial crisis happened in the world. The Latin American and East Asian monetary crises generated toxic impact not only on the financial system but also on the real world. The recent sub prime lending crisis of the US is inflicting severe strains on the international financial architecture and 'real world'.

The Latin American Crisis

The Latin American countries were the first to get infected with the problem of international debt. In the seventies, they borrowed heavily from various international sources including multinational banks which resulted in a 'debt trap' in the 1980s. In August, Mexico declared that it was unable to service its huge foreign debt. Dozens of other developing countries followed. The US, treasury officials crafted the 'Brady Plan' to rescue the most indebted countries. According to this plan, each debtor country could reach a deal in which its bank debt would be partially reduced with most of the remaining loans repackaged as 'Brady bonds'. On the basis of stabilization and Structured Adjustment Programmes, the IMF and the World Bank also extended their assistance

Iran-Iraq War

Iran-Iraq war was one of the longest, bloodiest and costliest Third World in the twentieth century. Began in September 1980 and ended in more than one million lives on both sides.

ed conflicts
it cost

v class of rich persons in most of the oil producing countries. These new income earners preferred to keep their surplus money in the multinational banks, that in dollar denominated accounts. That resulted in a new monetary phenomenon called 'Petro dollar'.

When the multinational banks were overfilled with deposits, lending it (or investing it) became a severe problem for them. They identified the developing



Savers queue for foreign currencies in Buenos Aires on October 10, 2008

countries as the potential borrowers of its enormous loanable funds. Multinational financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank also motivated the developing countries to make use of this opportunity.

The seventies also witnessed a new revolution in communication and information technology (ICT). This enabled the speedy movement of finance all over the world. By a mere touch on the mouse of the computer, money and finance from any part of the globe could be relocated.

From the seventies onwards, there also developed a disenchantment in the state driven political economies in almost all parts of the world, irrespective

of ideological differences. The solution to the 'stagflation' menace in the most developed countries was sought in 'free market'. Economists like Frederick von Hayek and Milton Friedman theoretically argued for it. In the eighties, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the UK, and President Ronald Reagan in the United States started implementing liberalization and privatization policies in their respective countries. During the same period, in the socialist and developing countries also there arose a shift in political economy thinking, in favour of 'market' against 'command' and 'planning'. The so called 'Washington Consensus' evolved in 1990 expressed the universal consensus on 'neo-liberalism' and 'globalization'.

All the above mentioned factors were quite conducive to international financial liberalization. A significant change that occurred with liberalization was the disjunction of money and finance from the 'real world'. Formerly, the function of international money was to facilitate international trade. In recent times, trillions of dollars of financial transactions are conducted each day to earn super profits out of it. A variety of financial instruments including money, loans, bonds, stocks and many others have been developed and transacted by a plethora of institutions. Much of these deals are dealt in the 'derivatives'. Speculation has become the normal life in the world of finance. This creates much instability in the present-day global financial system. In order to reduce the intensity of speculative international financial deals and the consequent volatility in the financial system, James Tobin proposed a tax on

Afghanistan War

The war in Afghanistan began with the Soviet invasion of the country in December 1979. More than one million Afghans and about 15,000 Soviet soldiers were killed and five million people became refugees.

of borrowers with weak credit history. Such borrowers are incapable of availing 'land mortgage backed loans'. A subprime loan is one that is offered at an interest rate higher than prime ('A' paper) loans due to the high risk.

Lenders were prompt to offer riskier loans Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs) (which have a floating interest clause) to subprime borrowers as loan products with such adjustable rates, transferred great part of a risk from the lender to the borrower. This risk transfer was also the main reason why they often offered greater commission to Mortgage Brokers if they sold adjustable rate loan. Probably some of the brokers were overtaken by greed and were offering and suggesting adjustable mortgages even to borrowers who would qualify for prime loans.

Subprime borrowers mainly borrowed for 'housing'. The housing boom in the initial years attracted capital not only from within USA but also from all over the world. As the house-lending boom took hold, it became self-reinforcing. Greater home buying pushed up house prices, which made financial institutions feel that it was safe to lend money to non-credit worthy borrowers. After all, if they defaulted on their loans, the banks could repossess the house at a higher value. The theory went like this. Of course, it works only as long as housing prices rise. Once they peak and begin to decline; lending conditions tighten, and financial institutions find themselves repossessing houses whose value does not cover the value of the debt.



Housing prices in America peaked in 2006 and early 2007. After that the 'housing bubble' started bursting, destroying financial institutions like Bear Stearns. This has triggered a recession and Fed deployed a policy of interest cutting. The Bush government also pumped more money into the system to stabilize liquidity. But these measures failed to realize the required objectives. Since the later period of 2007 onwards, speculative transactions in commodities and foreign currencies have been accentuated, creating the problem of 'stagflation'. The American crisis has started affecting the international monetary system as well as the real world adversely.

Gulf Wars

Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait in 1990 precipitated a major war in 1991 and set off chain of events which led to a bigger war 12 years later, both involving the US. The Arab world was shocked when Saddam Hussein on August 2, 1990 turned against Kuwait which had supported him in his war against Iran in 1980-1988. US and UK attacked Iraq in 2003, and Saddam was deposed. He was executed in 2006.

these countries. But one could notice surging monetary and economic crisis in Latin American countries like Mexico, Brazil and Argentina.

East Asian Crisis

In 1997-98 ten countries of East Asian region (China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand) confronted a severe financial crisis. Some of these countries in the pre-crisis years performed extremely well economically which enabled them to earn the title of 'Tigers'. Multilateral institutions like the World Bank and IMF and some academic economists cited the case of these countries as a 'model', which other developing countries could emulate. But the 1997-98 crisis deplored all these claims.

The crisis was mainly due to the flight of international capital (hot money) from this region. One of the emerging sectors of these countries was the 'real estate business', which confronted a crisis of confidence in 1997. The crisis was first triggered by destabilizing speculation against the Thai baht and spread to the other Asian economies like a 'contagion'. As a consequence of the crisis the GDP of Indonesia fell by 58%, Thailand by 30%, South Korea by 16% and Malaysia by 10%. The monetary and financial crisis precipitated into social and political anarchy in countries like Indonesia. However, the IMF 'rescue packages' helped these countries to meet the crisis.

American Monetary Crisis

In spite of sporadic mild fluctuations, the US economy, in general, could maintain a high rate of economic growth in the

post-war era till 2007. Since then it has been in a serious monetary turmoil with painful impact on the real economy and the international monetary system. Some economists fear that the present crisis may degenerate into a depression similar to the one that occurred in the 1930s.

On March 16, 2008 one of the top investment banks-Bear Stearns -was forced to get it sold to J.P Morgan with the support of the Federal Reserve System at a nominal share price of \$2. One year back, Bears' share price was \$173. Most of the leading financial institutions including Citigroup, Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital, HSBC, Swiss Re, UBS AG, Deutsche Bank, Morgan Stanley, Lehman Brothers, Freddie, Mac, New Century Financial, American Home Mortgage, Ameriquest, Net Bank and Sentinel Management Group are now running at heavy losses.

The current financial crisis has its immediate roots in 2001, amid the end of the Internet boom and the shock of September 11 terrorist attacks on World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. At this juncture to avert a slowdown in the economy, the then Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, with the sanction of the Bush administration started practising cheap money policy to boost consumption demand of the economy. So the Fed Funds rate was slashed from 3.5% in August 2001 to a mere 1% by mid 2003. This rate was maintained for a long time.

Sub-prime Lending

Lending by financial institutions was made much easier by financial deregulation. This paved the way to 'sub-prime lending'. Sub-prime refers to the category

Sri Lankan Civil War.

More than 68,000 people have lost their lives and nearly 600,000 displaced in the conflict which began in 1983 between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

country: Tunisia / Switzerland / Syria / St. Lucia

Feature Film Makers of the World

India is the at the top of countries producing feature films. The annual production averages between 900 and 1000. Next in the list are USA, Japan, China, France, Italy, Spain, UK, Germany and Russia in that order.

35. Who created the comic strip Peanuts?
36. The first US First Lady to win a public office
37. In 1928 Amsterdam Olympics hockey, out of a total of 28 goals that India scored, how many were scored by Dhyan Chand?
38. Tai chi is (a. a Chinese medicine b. a Korean remedy for arthritis c. a dance-like Chinese exercise d. tea used in Japan's tea ceremony)
39. What does Prachanda, the name of the Nepalese Maoist leader, mean?
40. 'A Call to Honour' is the memoir of
41. The top 5 in Forbes Global 2000 list of companies released in 2008.
42. Sport is war minus the shooting. Whose words?
43. Who is remembered for his 'mountaintop' speech a day before he was assassinated?
44. Who won the first Nobel prize for Economics in 1969?
45. Which Booker Prize-winning book tells the story of an aging judge and his family and a Nepalese insurgency?
46. Nine Zero is the headquarters in Karachi of
47. India's biggest private sector lender

48. The sports fund founded by Geet Sethi and Prakash Padukone to help Indians in their quest for victory at Olympics.
49. Who acted as a Muslim cleric in the Pakistani film 'Khuda Ke Liye'?
50. Who wrote 'Indira Gandhi: An Intimate Biography'?
51. Which of these words means 'forestry'?
silviculture / defoliant / decider / forge
52. Expand LUMS. It is in Pakistan.
53. The Ferrari-driving Finn Raikkonen's first name
54. The companies that led the 48 Indian firms that found a place in Forbes Global 2008 List.
55. Expand 'tmcft'

Answers 1. USA Atomic Energy Act; 2. infant formula milk; 3. Britain; 4. V.S. Naipaul; 5. Martin Crowe; 6. Apna Asmaan; 7. August 14; 8. 160; 9. Maldives; 10. Tom Green; 11. Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa; 12. psychiatrist; 13. nine; 14. "A Bend in the River"; 15. pro re nata as the situation demands; 16. Hamelin; 17. retailer, the world's second largest; 18. Granma; 19. b; 20. scatter her husband's ashes; 21. Asia and the Pacific; 22. Corus; 23. Dr. J. Craig Venter; 24. d; 25. brinjal; 26. 'Earth House'; 27. husband; 28. Craig Venter; 29. Abel Prize for Maths; 30. International Court of Justice, The Hague; 31. 1936; 32. Ministry of Corporate Affairs; 33. Benjamin Franklin; 34. Switzerland; 35. Charles M. Schulz; 36. Hillary Clinton; 37. 11; 38. c; 39. awesome; 40. Jaswant Singh; 41. HSBC, General Electric, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase and Exxon-Mobil; 42. George Orwell; 43. Martin Luther King; 44. Jan Tinbergen and Ragnan Frisch; 45. Kiran Desai's 'The Inheritance of Loss'; 46. MQM - Muttahida Qaumi Movement; 47. ICICI Bank; 48. Gold Quest; 49. Nazeeruddin Shah; 50. Pupul Jayakar; 51. Silviculture; 52. Lahore University of Management Sciences; 53. Kimi; 54. 5 and ONGC; 55. thousand million cubic feet

A General Knowledge Test

V. George Mathew

- '123' in the India-US nuclear deal comes from Section 123 of the In 1867, Henri Nestle began developing what?
Which country bought control of Suez Canal in 1875?
The first person of Indian origin to win the Booker Prize
Who invented Cricket Max?
Two-time National Award-winning actress Shobhana's first Hindi film
Pakistan's Independence Day
One barrel of oil is equivalent to how many litres?
Island Air is an airline based in
The author of 'The Death of Margaret Thatcher'
Expand 'APMA' in Apma region
Head doctor is slang for a
The number of US Presidents Cuban leader Fidel Castro clashed with
Which of V.S. Naipaul's books has this opening sentence: "The world is what it is; men who are nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in it"?
In Medicine, what does 'p.r.n.' mean?
The town in the German legend of the Pied Piper
Carrefour is a French
Which of these is the name of a Communist Party daily: Dad / Granma / Grandpa/ Mom?
To proffer means: a. to refuse b. to offer c. to withdraw an offer d. to teach
'Ashes to Ashes' is a film about a New Yorker who travels to India to
IN ESCAP, 'AP' stands for
The Anglo-Dutch steel company acquired by Tatas in 2007
'Life Decoded' is the autobiography of
Meghnad Desai is a member of the (a. Rajya Sabha b. National Knowledge Commission c. the British House of Commons d. the British House of Lords)
India's first edible genetically modified crop.
What did Andy Ridley found?
Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's predecessor was her
The first and only man to have mapped his own DNA
The India-born N.Y. University professor Srinivas S.R. Varadhan won which prestigious prize in 2007?
The highest judicial organ of the UN
Nehru's autobiography was published in the year
The Ministry of Company Affairs is now called
The bifocal lens was invented by
There is a cross on the flag of this

Volunteers for 'Gandhi'

About 294,560 extras acted in the Oscar-winning-1982 -film 'Gandhi'. Of these, 200,000 were volunteers. They appeared in the scene showing Gandhi's funeral 94,500 were paid a small fee. The scene lasted two minutes and five seconds only.

Vlodreop: Tagore/ Mahesh Yogi/ Rajarama Mohan Roy/ Mother Teresa?

A Lexicographer's Anniversary

A man named Noah Webster proposed a comprehensive dictionary of the American language in 1800. Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language (1828) took 20 years to compile. Webster's 250th birthday was celebrated at Yale University in October, 2008.

Year 2007

109. Length of a bee hummingbird
110. What was called freedom's fabric, during India's struggle for independence?
111. The site for Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Madhya Pradesh
112. His novel 'Midnight's Children' has won Salman Rushdie the Booker Prize as well as the
113. Prince Salim later became Emperor
114. What is common to these companies: Workhardt Hospitals, Emaar MGF Land and SVEC Constructions?
115. Spiderman creator
116. The longest country in the world
117. A giant tortoise can live upto how many years?

93. Saleem Sinai is a character appearing in Salman Rushdie's novel
94. Pushpa Kamal Dahal is his real name. We know this Asian leader as
95. SAP is the largest maker of
96. Approximate number of Indian-Americans
97. Chikan embroidery is associated with which city?
98. BHP Billiton is the world's biggest
99. Anand Bhawan in Allahabad was renamed and given to Indian National Congress in 1930
100. How many countries are covered by the Schengen Agreement?
101. The Commonwealth was formerly known as
102. 'Pool with water lilies' was painted around 1910 by
103. A world beginning with 't', meaning 60
104. The staple food for two-thirds of the world's population
105. What happened to Indian Airlines flight IC-814 on Dec. 24, 1999?
106. The Indian President's salary
107. Jiang Qing, who tried unsuccessfully to seize power, was Mao Tse-tung's (second wife / eldest daughter / only sister / close friend)
108. 'Time' magazine's Person of the

Answers

56. yellow pages; 57. Sebastian Vettel.; 58. biology; 59. VSNL; 60. Nicosia; 61. Grunenthal; 62. Somalia; 63. London; 64. oddest book title of the year; 65. Dutch; 66. Kamallesh Sharma; 67. Cuba; 68. Pritzker Prize; 69. Marco Polo; 70. Surjit Singh Bamala; 71. Charlton Heston; 72. 40; 73. pine needle; 74. Chandigarh; 75. two-thirds; 76. London; 77. Orissa; 78. 62; 79. China; 80. Mt. Everest; 81. Jigmi Y. Thinley; 82. Singapore; 83. Cement; 84. inspiration; 85. Elton John; 86. the ceremonial scarf; 87. China; 88. 1,500; 89. Silvio Berlusconi; 90. 2000; 91. the longest-lived British monarch; 92. Mahesh Yogi; 93. 'Midnight's Children'; 94. Prachanda; 95. business software; 96. 3 m.; 97. Lucknow; 98. mining company; 99. Swaraj Bhawan; 100. 24; 101. The British Commonwealth of Nations; 102. Claude Monet; 103. rice; 104. hijacked to Kandahar in Afghanistan; 105. Rs. 1,00,000 a month; 106. second wife; 107. Vladimir Putin; 108. 56 mm; 109. Khadi; 110. Amarkantak; 111. f Bookers; 112. Jahangir; 113. withdrew their public issues owing to low market value; 114. 15. Stan Lee; 115. Chile; 116. 150

6. A phone directory or its section that lists persons or companies according to their professions or services.
7. The youngest driver to win a Formula One GP.
8. Histology is a branch of (History / Geography / Biology / Histronics)
9. The old name of Tata Communications
10. The last divided capital in Europe
11. The company which developed the drug thalidomide 50 years ago
12. According to UNICEF, the world's worst place for kids
13. The city that hopes to be the first with streets illuminated fully by light emitting diodes (LED) by 2012
14. The Diagram Prize is awarded for the
15. In Belgium, the majority of citizens speak
16. The man who succeeded Dan McKinnon
17. The country where a new President has introduced use of mobile phone to the public.
18. The Architecture Prize that is the Nobel equivalent
19. Who, among these, was a Venetian traveller: Amerigo Vespucci / Ibn Battuta / Columbus / Marco Polo ?
20. The Indian politician who authored 'My Other Two Daughters'. He was Governor and CM.
21. The American actor whose marriage lasted 64 years, 1944-2008.
22. Whereas Bollywood produces nearly 1000 films annually, Pakistani films a year are about
23. The needle-shaped leaf of a pine tree
24. The venue of the first World Punjab Conference , March 2008
25. How much of the island of Great Britain is covered by England?
26. Where was chess played in 1851 as an international tournament?
27. The State where poverty is highest, with 46.4 p.c. of the population BPL, according to Economic Survey 2008
28. How many governments has Italy had in the 63 years since the end of WWII?
29. Hexie (harmony) is the first domestically made train capable of reaching 350 km. an hour. The country?
30. What is considered the third and vertical pole by mountaineers?
31. Who made news in Bhutan by becoming the country's first elected PM?
32. Asian flu was caused by a strain of the influenza virus first isolated in 1957, where?
33. Kutch district in Gujarat will be the largest manufacturer of in the country in three to four years.
34. Removal of fluid or gas by suction as from a body cavity
35. The English singer whose hits include 'Your Song' and 'Border Song'
36. Ministers in Bhutan assume office after receiving what from the king?
37. The country with the largest foreign exchange reserves
38. The number of students admitted by India's six IIMs a year
39. Italy's richest man
40. Bollywood was given the status of an industry in
41. What honour came to Queen Elizabeth II on Dec. 20, 2007?
42. Who died in the Dutch town of

The Story of Board Game

Ancient India had a board game called Mokshapat or Moksha Patamu similar to modern Snakes and Ladders, used originally as a part of moral instruction to children. The game was transplanted to England in the 19th century and named Snakes and Ladders. It was introduced in the US as Chutes and Ladders in 1943.

- ployed as a test driver by
156. What does a glacialist study about?
 157. Stamps used only for revenue and taxation purposes
 158. 'Socialism with a human face' is a concept associated with (Chou-en-Lai, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping)
 159. The two largest cities of Scotland
 160. Cícisbeo is the lover of a
 161. How much does a winner of Param Vir Chakra, the highest military honour, get per month?
 162. Whom did Cuba's Fidel Castro overthrow in 1959?
 163. Who is Darsheel Safari?
 164. The first communist head of state in European Union
 165. Aalsmeer flower auction house in Amsterdam is the world's
 166. Asia's busiest airport
 167. What was the profession of Tamil writer 'Sujata'?
 168. This is considered the largest single-day fund-raiser for cancer
 169. The first foreigner to coach Indian cricketers
 170. Who wrote "Difficult Daughters", winner of the Commonwealth Prize?
 1. A situation in which cash for lending

Shahenshah, the Gold Coin

Shah Jahan minted the Shahenshah, the special gold coin weighing 100 tola or 1166 grams. It was a gift to the caliph of Baghdad. It was inherited by an Arab Princess who brought it as dowry when she married the Nawab of Bahawalpur. Later their daughter took the coin to London, from where it reached Mumbai.

is in short supply

172. 'Puisne' means (a. small b. rich c. junior in rank d. disqualified)
173. Project Tiger Directorate is now known as
174. Who is the third in line to the British throne?
175. In ichnography, one draws
176. How many daughters did Danaus, the King of Argos (Greek mythology) have?
177. Hectogram is equal to how many grams?
178. The longest land tunnel in the world
179. The length of the Gotthard Base Tunnel under construction in Switzerland now. To be completed in 2015.

Answers

118. 2 m.; 119. Hannah Montana; 120. Wales; 121. surrender; 122. helicopter; 123. Global Summit of Women, held in 2008 in Hanoi; 124. nickel producer; 125. Boxing Day; 126. Sanitation; 127. 17; 128. Kodambakkam; 129. Ruskin Bond; 130. China's IC8C; 131. a white rose; 132. Zambia; 133. Cassandra; 134. Danube; 135. small flower; 136. Sindhi; 137. Moliere; 138. 4; 139. c; 136. ; 137. Moliere; 138. 4; 139. Rajnikant; 140. about; 141. an hour-glass; 142. Bhutan; 143. Penny Blue; 144. bull; 145. five; 146. 8; 147. Rs. 857, in 2006-07; 148. Assam Rifles; 149. Rs. 90,000; 150. Nearly 10 lakh; 151. Tuberculosis; 152. South Korea; 153. 2011; 154. Makal Osai; 155. Ferrari; 156. glaciers; 157. Fiscal stamps; 158. Deng Xiaoping; 159. Edinburgh and Glasgow; 160. married woman; 161. Rs. 1500; 162. Fulgencio Batista; 163. the dyslexic child of 'Taare Zameen Par'; 164. Demetris Christofias of Cyprus; 165. biggest building; 166. Tokyo Haneda; 167. Engineer; 168. Terry Fox Run; 169. John Wright; 170. Anju Kapur; 171. credit crunch or liquidity crisis; 172. c; 173. National Tiger Conservation Authority; 174. Prince Harry; 175. the ground plan of a building; 176. 50; 177. 100; 178. The 4.6 km Lotschberg Base Tunnel in the Bernese Alps, Switzerland; 179. 57 km.

118. India is the largest chilli producer. How many acres worth are Indian chillies?
119. Miley Cyrus, the 15-year-old teen idol is better known as
120. What is 'Cymru' in Welsh?
121. A white flag can be a signal of truce or
122. Whirlybird is a colloquial term for a
123. What is known as the 'Davos for Women'?
124. Norilsk Nickel is the world's biggest
125. The first weekday after Christmas is called
126. The UN has declared 2008 the International Year of
127. Common male houseflies complete their entire life cycle in how many days?
128. In 'Kollywood' (Tamil film industry), 'K' stands for
129. The author who has eccentric relatives such as Uncle Ken and Miss Bun in his stories
130. The second bank in the world to have more than 10,000 branches is SBI. Which is the first?
131. In the civil war the Wars of the Roses, the emblem of the house of York
132. Northern Rhodesia is the old name of
133. Which name means 'a person whose warnings of misfortune are disregarded': (Neah, Solomon, Polonius, Cassandra)
134. The city of Vienna is on river
135. A floret is a
136. The language added to the 8th Schedule in 1962
137. The dramatist Jean Baptiste Poquelin is known to us as
138. A tetragon has (2,3,4,6) sides
139. The superstar who has acted in 156 films and is reported to have over 63,000 registered fan clubs is his name
140. In 'circa 1750', 'circa' means
141. Father Time is time personified as a very old man. He carries a scythe and
142. The Asian country that has only five elevators
143. The second postage stamp of the world
144. An animal whose name can mean 'an edict'
145. Lactose, a form of sugar, forms -- percent of cow's milk
146. The national average of cars per 1000 people in India.
147. The spending on education per person in India.
148. India's oldest paramilitary force
149. The Cabinet Secretary's salary, as recommended by the 6th Pay Commission.
150. According to the panchayati raj ministry, how many women are elected members of local bodies?
151. The disease that kills about 4,400 Indians every day?
152. 'Soju' is the inexpensive national liquor in : Nigeria / Chile / Afghanistan / South Korea
153. Official sources expect India's population to reach 1.2 b. by the year
154. The Tamil daily banned by Malaysia for some time in 2008
155. Seven-time Formula One world champion Schumacher is now em-

Radcliffe, the Star

Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe, 19, was on the Forbes Celebrity 100 list of 2008. The child star turned pinup Radcliffe, with \$ 25 m., came joint top of the Teens list of young mega-earners.

216. uc and lc are abbreviations of terms used in (music/ printing/architecture /horserace)?
217. The Indian-born chief of Citigroup, the world's biggest bank?
218. The country where the new mandate is that 40 per cent of CEOs be female?
219. Who died at Graceland Mansion at the age of 42?
220. A soprano (swims/sleeps/dreams/ sings)
221. Old Nick is (gold/ an angel/ the Devil / Adam)
222. In 1975, the 36th Amendment Act made this the 22nd state of the Indian Union.
223. In what subject did Mahesh Yogi graduate from Allahabad university before becoming an internationally known spiritual man?
224. The beer drinking festival held in Munich, Germany
225. Pentagon is the world's biggest office building. Which is the second biggest?
226. Whom did Jack Ruby shoot and kill in 1967?
227. The first European to sight the Pacific Ocean?

John Sands, marooned on St. Kilda for seven months, used hollowed pieces of driftwood (St. Kilda 'mailboats') to get messages to the outside world, in 1876. This method was used regularly from 1885 to 1930 by the St. Kildans. Finders of these mailboats were paid 2s 6d by the Post Office from 1906.

228. 'Jinnah' in Gujarati means
229. Archbishop Makarios was the first President of
230. 'Mother wit' is a. artificial intelligence b. mother's sense of humour c. common sense d. a witty woman
231. Cyclops of Greek mythology
a. are deaf b. have only one eye c. are blind d. have three eyes
232. From 1380 to 1814, this country had the same King as Denmark. Which country?
233. Zoonoses are diseases that travel from to humans.
234. The low-cost subsidiary of Jet Airways
235. Yellow roses indicate (wealth/disease/health/ friendship)

- Answers** 180. Darsheel Safari; 181. Puck; 182. Benazir Bhutto; 183. 34; 184. pomaceous; 185. Pegasus; 186. French President Sarkozy; 187. memory; 188. May; 189. buyer; 190. drug addict; 191. pregnant; 192. 495.92m; 193. trust; 194. Old Man of the Sea; 195. Tamil Nadu; 196. Forty-Niner; 197. The Netherlands; 198. "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West"; 199. Papa 'Doc' Duvalier of Haiti; 200. Became the first woman Speaker of Pak National Assembly; 201. Sri Lanka; 202. Speaker of West Bengal legislative assembly since 1982 is India's longest-running presiding officer; 203. Intel Science Talent Search award, worth \$1,00,000 given by Intel Foundation; 204. his entire genetic sequence; 205. transoceanic span. It is 36 km.; 206. hertz; 207. Aleksander Lukashenko of Belarus; 208. Recipients of Guggenheim fellowship; 209. Meera; 210. Inderjit Singh Bindra; 211. Arthur C. Clarke; 212. The Chicago Climate Exchange; 213. d; 214. E.F. Schumacher; 215. blood; 216. printing; 217. Vikram Pandit; 218. Norway; 219. Elvis Presley; 220. sings; 221. the Devil; 222. Sikkim; 223. physics; 224. Oktoberfest; 225. CCTV Headquarters, Beijing; 226. Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of J.F. Kennedy; 227. Vasco Nunez de Balboa; 228. the small one
232. Norway; 233. animals; 234. JetLite; 235. friendship.

80. The 11-year-old who competed with Shah Rukh Khan for best actor's crown in Filmfare Awards.
81. A mischievous sprite in English folklore: Stone/Dick/Tic/Puck
82. This Asian leader had the nickname Pinky.
83. According to the latest Human Development Report, what per cent of Indians live on less than Rs. 40 a day?
84. Which word means 'like apples': pom-pom/pomaceous/plump/plush?
85. The Jamaica hotel where cricket coach Bob Woolmer was found dead
86. The idea of a Mediterranean Union originally came from
87. Hippocampus is the part of the brain responsible for
88. Mother's Day is observed on the Second Sunday in which month?
89. In Economics, monopsony is a situation in which there is only one
90. Hophead is slang for a
91. 'Preggers' in British informal English means
92. The population of European Union
93. 'Cartel' is the European term for
94. The old man in 'Arabian Nights' who clung to the back of Sinbad for many days
95. The Indian state which recognised the third gender, i.e. transsexuals, in 2008
96. A person who went to California in the gold rush of 1849
97. 'Kampeon' is one of the magazines with the highest circulation. In which country is it published?
198. Benazir Bhutto's posthumous memoir
199. The dictator who once got all black dogs killed because someone told him his rival had turned into one to avoid prosecution
200. Why was Fehmida Mirza of Pakistan in the news in March, 2008?
201. A British national, Arthur C. Clarke's adopted country
202. What is the record set by Hashim Abdul Halim?
203. The award referred to as the Junior Nobel
204. What did bio-technology entrepreneur and millionaire Dan Stoicescu buy for \$350,000 last year?
205. The Hongzhou Bay Bridge is the world's longest
206. The international unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second
207. Who is widely labelled as 'Europe's last dictator'?
208. What is common to Jhumpa Lahiri, Manil Suri and Meena Alexander?
209. The Pakistani actor who made her debut with Mahesh Bhatt's 'Nazar'
210. The Indian, a former BCCI President, who has become principal adviser to ICC
211. Who co-authored with Stanley Kubrick the film "2001: A Space Odyssey"?
212. The world's first voluntary carbon credit market
213. Which of these means 'orange-red'?
a.crimson b.purple c.mauve d.carrot
214. Who developed the concept of 'small is beautiful'?

First IVF Baby is 30

The world's first IVF baby Louise Brown born on July 25, 1978 lives in Bristol, south-west England, with husband Wesley Mullinder and son Cameron.

275. Venezuela means
276. Who won the first Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership?
277. The first country to recognise the state of Israel
278. President Bush's brother Jeb is Governor of
279. David Banda is a Malawian child adopted by
280. The film in which a two-time Oscar winner appeared with her father
281. The highest gallantry award for action during a war
282. The equivalent of Param Vir Chakra during peace time
283. The world's largest land predator
284. The eldest Van Trapp daughter and her boyfriend in 'The Sound of Music'
285. 'The Scream' is the expressionist masterpiece of
286. Drinking age in Delhi
287. Cuba was discovered by
288. The writer who brought together 20 of the world's best writers to collaborate on a short story collection 'Telling Tales' for HIV/AIDS campaign
289. 'The day when I am just a writer, I'll cease to be a writer'. Whose words?
290. The number of blood banks in India

The Father of India's Renaissance

Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a scholar and religious reformer, established the Atimiyabha in 1814 and Brahmosaba in 1828. He is often referred to as the prophet of Indian nationalism and the Father of India's Renaissance. He is remembered for his work for the abolition of *sathi*.

291. The language used by technology geeks
292. A dulcimer is (a. a musical instrument b. an idiot c. an elderly woman d. a kind of word)
293. In India, census has been a regular drill every 10 years since
294. Lakpatis (those who declared annual income to be more than Rs. 10 lakh) in 2006-07
295. Women in US got the vote in the year
296. Twenty million tonnes of grain are reported to be eaten by rats in India a year. This is enough to feed (Africa / Japan/Seychelles / South Asia)
297. The country where a former Catholic bishop led the leftist forces to power in 2008.

Answers

236. \$20; 237. bearings maker; 238. Elton John; 239. Edgar Allan Poe; 240. b; 241. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States; 242. 1 percent; 243. ceroplastics; 244. gross registered tons; 245. Satan; 246. ruthless competition; 247. Falange; 248. Spaceship Two; 249. Hisako Higuchi; 250. a; 251. Grubstreet; 252. a tad; 253. False; 254. France; 255. species, the plural form; 256. Joely Roger; 257. India; 258. the same; 259. boxing; 260. b; 261. watches; 262. Mercedes-Benz India; 263. Kalyani; 264. Confucius; 265. Singapore; 266. Punjabi 267. 25; 268. Hongkong Sixes; 269. all the same; 270. 5; 271. Renault and Nissan; 272. shared between two authors; 273. Anoushka Shankar; 274. 4 litres; 275. Little Venice; 276. Joaquin Chissano, former President Mozambique; 277. USA; 278. Florida; 279. Madonna; 280. 'On Golden Pond'; 281. Param Vir Chakra; 282. Ashok Chakra; 283. the polar bear; 284. Liesl and Rolf; 285. Edward Munch; 286. 25; 287. Columbus; 288. Nadine Gordimer; 289. Albert Camus; 290. 2,433; 291. Nordic; 292. a; 293. 1872; 294. 1,77,500; 295. 1920; 296. Japan; 297. Paraguay.

36. Double eagle is a former U.S. gold coin equal to
37. SKF is world's biggest
38. David Furnish is spouse of
39. Whom did Tennyson describe as 'the most original genius America has produced'?
40. 'betweentimes' means (a.often b.at intervals c. in the middle d.never)
41. What is known as the '9-11 Commission'?
42. What is the minimum percent of GDP that should be spent on water and sanitation, according to the UN?
43. The art of modelling in wax
44. Expand GRT
45. Prince of Darkness is the name for
46. 'Dog-eat-dog' means characterized by
47. The only political party in Spain under Franco
48. The world's first commercial spacecraft
49. The first Asian to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame
50. Hamadryad is (a. king cobra b. a bone c. a stallion d. a Japanese city)
51. Which of these stands for literary hacks: Fleet Street / Grubstreet / Broadway / Hall of Fame?
52. Which of these means 'a little'? (a tad / per se / al fine / in case)
53. A triplane is a plane for three persons - True or False?
54. The country where Septemeber massacre occurred
55. The abbreviation 'spp' stands for
56. A black flag of pirates, with white skull and crossbones
57. The country that won the first T20 World Cup played in 2007
58. The first ODI was played in 1971 on the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Which was the venue of the first-ever Test?
59. 'The prize-ring' means professional
60. 'Leave of absence' can mean a. the place of work b. the period of absence from work c. the length of one's service d. going for a holiday
61. Hublot makes (furniture / ships/ watches/ artificial flowers)
62. The new name of Daimler Chrysler India
63. Bharat Forge is the flagship of which group of companies?
64. 'Women and people of low birth are very hard to deal with.' Who is believed to have said this?
65. The venue of the first-ever Youth Olympic Games of 2010
66. S.S. Noor is a poet writing in which language?
67. Leo Tolstoy fathered how many children.
68. Cricket's six-a-side version was launched in 1992 when this event began.
69. Which means 'nevertheless'? the same as / all the same / at once / all in all
70. Europe accounts for what percent of the world's population?
71. The two companies with which Bajaj Auto is collaborating to make a small car
72. What happened to the Booker Prize in the years 1974 and 1992?
73. The first Indian woman to have performed at the Grammy Awards.
74. The quantity of liquor consumed by an average Indian in a year

Selflessness

To govern Sparta, 300 men were to be chosen and Paedaretos was a candidate. When the list of the successful was announced, his name was not in it. A close friend said he was sorry he wasn't chosen. "I am glad," said Paedaretos, "that in Sparta there are three hundred men better than I am."

331. Sitar maestro Ustad Vilayat Khan's daughter Zula Khan, a sufi singer, has been named after
332. Why did the inclusion of Mara Carfagna in the Italian cabinet in May 2009 make news?
333. Three countries that don't use the metric system.
334. The real name of recording artiste and soprano saxophone player is Kenneth Gorelick. We know him by the name
335. The diameter of the bore of a gun is usually measured in
336. David Blaine is (a. a Formula 1 driver b. a pugilist c. a magician d. the youngest President)
337. What is unique about Parbati Baruah of Assam?
338. In 2008 ended the oldest one-party rule in the world. Which country?
339. The baby drinks 200 litres of its mother's milk every day. What are we talking about?
340. What is known as the world's richest non-fiction award?
341. Devika Rani was a grand niece of
342. The second oldest university in India after the university of Calcutta
343. What is known as Devil's Triangle?
344. The rubber tapper-turned environmental activist who was Brazil's

Founders of Organizations

Dadabhai Naoroji founded the East India Association in 1866 and S.N. Bannerjee the Indian Association. Gopalakrishna Gokhale is the founder of Servants of Indian Society (1905) and Madan Mohan Malavya the Hindu Mahasabha (1906). Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das founded Swaraj Party.

- cabinet minister
345. The smallest nation in the world after Vatican City
346. The first man to ski down the South Col of Mount Everest, using a parachute as a brake
347. The term 'India' is derived from a. Sanskrit b. Urdu c. German d. English
348. What was unique about Quentin Bryce, Australia's Governor General in 2008?
349. The most commonly donated and used organ are the eyes. What is the second?
350. The country where an ex-Roman Catholic priest became President in 2008
351. The Father of LSD

Answers

298. Vladimir Komarov; 299. 10; 300. mother country; 301. 60s; 302. short, simple song; 303. c; 304. a stallion; 305. three; 306. journalism; 307. China; 308. Unification Church; 309. China, Japan, Thailand; 310. the Netherlands; 311. Lord Ganesh; 312. In China's Yunnan province, Dec. 07; 313. Tariq Aziz; 314. The White House; 315. 91; 316. Rs. 80; 317. d; 318. IITs; 319. 1337; 320. 'silent tsunami'; 321. State Bank of Mysore; 322. Nalco; 323. Food Safety and Quality Year; 324. \$20,000; 325. 11 days; 326. Rs. 218 cr.; 327. That is the day the Everest was conquered in 1953; 328. Shirley Temple; 329. Steel; 330. Mother's Day; 331. Amir Khusrau's raga 'Zila Kaafi'; 332. She is an ex-model who posed naked for magazines; 333. USA, Liberia, Myanmar; 334. Kenny G; 335. hundredths of inches or in millimeters; 336. c; 337. The only trained woman elephant catcher and trainer in India; 338. Paraguay; 339. Blue whale; 340. Samuel Johnson Prize, \$ 58,350; 341. Rabindranath Tagore; 342. Bombay; 343. Bermuda Triangle.; 344. Marina Silva; 345. Monaco; 346. Yuichiro Miura; 347. d; 348. the first woman to act as the queen's representative in Australia; 349. kidneys; 350. Paraguay; 351. Albert Hoffman.

98. The first in-flight casualty in Soyuz 1, 1967, as the parachute failed to open properly
99. The number of judges for one million people in India
100. A country in relation to its colonies: mother country or father country?
101. Blacks became full partners in US democracy with the civil rights legislation in the (30s / 40s/ 50s / 60s)
102. A ditty is a
103. A grease monkey is (a. an African monkey b. a chipmunk c. a mechanic d. an elevator)
104. A male horse that is not castrated
105. Half a litre of donated blood can help save how many lives.
106. Prem Bhatia award is given for (science/ sports/ music / journalism)
107. SAIC Motor Corp is the biggest automaker in
108. The church known as the Moonies
109. The three countries with the largest Buddhist populations
110. In which country do people dress up in orange on the Queen's birthday?
111. The patron deity of Maharashtra
112. Where was the first-ever joint India-China army exercise held?
113. Name the man who studied English literature and became Dy. PM and is now on trial
114. The seat of Russia's Council of Ministers
115. The number of Grand Prix won by Michael Schumacher
116. The monthly allowance for Victoria Cross, the pre-Independence award
317. The term 'land of ' is used in the Bible to describe the area promised by God to Israelites
a. bread and butter b. bread and milk c. rice and wheat d. milk and honey
318. What has been called the biggest Indian brand after the Taj Mahal?
319. The year the Hundred Years War began
320. How did the Director of World Food Programme describe the world food situation in early 2008
321. Cauvery Kalpatharu Grameena Bank (CK Grameena Bank) is sponsored by
322. The 14th central public sector enterprise to get Navratna status, in April, 08
323. To inculcate good food habits and hygiene, 2008-09 has been declared as
324. Compensation amount to victims of air accidents (deaths) was raised to in April, 2008.
325. The current world record for staying awake
326. The 173-piece collection of jewels of the Nizam of Hyderabad was bought by the Government of India in 1995 for retention as national heritage, for how much?
327. Why is May 29 designated by Nepal as International Mount Everest Day?
328. The child star, now 80, after whom a cocktail and a soft drink were named
329. Aries Chundan is the first ever snake boat made of
330. Anna Jarvis is credited with creating the holiday called

Helium

Helium is twice as heavy as hydrogen, but it is still only one seventh the weight of air. Helium does not burn, so it is used in airships

331. Sitar maestro Ustad Vilayat Khan's daughter Zula Khan, a sufi singer, has been named after

332. Why did the inclusion of Mara Carfagna in the Italian cabinet in May 2009 make news?

333. Three countries that don't use the metric system.

334. The real name of recording artiste and soprano saxophone player is Kenneth Gorelick. We know him by the name

335. The diameter of the bore of a gun is usually measured in

336. David Blaine is (a. a Formula 1 driver b. a pugilist c. a magician d. the youngest President)

337. What is unique about Parbati Baruah of Assam?

338. In 2008 ended the oldest one-party rule in the world. Which country?

339. The baby drinks 200 litres of its mother's milk every day. What are we talking about?

340. What is known as the world's richest non-fiction award?

341. Devika Rani was a grand niece of

342. The second oldest university in India after the university of Calcutta

343. What is known as Devil's Triangle?

344. The rubber tapper-turned environmental activist who was Brazil's

Founders of Organizations

Dadabhai Naoroji founded the East India Association in 1866 and S.N. Bannerjee the Indian Association. Gopalakrishna Gokhale is the founder of Servants of Indian Society (1905) and Madan Mohan Malavya the Hindu Mahasabha (1906). Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das founded Swaraj Party.

cabinet minister

345. The smallest nation in the world after Vatican City

346. The first man to ski down the South Col of Mount Everest, using a parachute as a brake

347. The term 'India' is derived from
a. Sanskrit b. Urdu c. German d. English

348. What was unique about Quentin Bryce, Australia's Governor General in 2008?

349. The most commonly donated and used organ are the eyes. What is the second?

350. The country where an ex-Roman Catholic priest became President in 2008

351. The Father of LSD

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88. Charles de Gaulle before becoming President

a. wasn't PM b. served as PM twice c. served as PM three times d. served as PM once

389. The world's largest staffing firm

390. In MSME, what is the first 'M' for?
SME = Small and Medium Enterprises.

391. 'Taoiseach' is the prime minister of

392. The number of gram panchayats at present

393. The Indian named among the Biggest Brains in Business by Conde Nast Portfolio in 2008

394. Africa's largest democracy

395. Student enrolment in IGNOU

396. The Ramayan character, the son of blind parents, whose name has become synonymous with filial duty

397. The author of 'Kane and Abel'

398. Who was deputed by Pakistan to argue their case at the UN on the Kashmir dispute in 1948?

399. What did Martin Cooper invent 35 years ago?

400. The number of climbers to have reached Mount Everest so far?

401. The South African nation has been described as the 'rainbow nation', a phrase attributed to

402. 'Everything can wait, but not agricul-

Sardar Patel

Jhaveribhai Patel fought in the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857 under the flag of Rani of Jhansi. Wounded in the battle of Gwalior, he was a prisoner for many years. His son Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, earned out the Integration of the Indian States with the Union. He was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.

ture.' Which Indian leader's words?

403. The longest-running guerrilla movement in the American continent.

404. Manuel Marulanda, the oldest guerrilla leader of Colombia, was known as 'Tirofijo' meaning

405. The expression 'white man's burden' comes from the title of a poem by

406. Pertussis is another name for

407. Lamaism is practised in Tibet and

408. Sydney Pollack's film 'Out of Africa' is based on the memoirs of

409. What record did Cheryl Bart and her daughter Nikki create on May 24, 2008?

410. The unburnt end of a cigarette

411. Who among these was a poet and painter: William Wordsworth / William Blake / Stephen Spender / John Keats?

Answers

352. 14; 353. a female artist; 354. convoke; 355. Lal Bahadur Shastri; 356. rink, Paul Getty; 357. Democratic Republic of Congo; 358. 72; 359. Salma Hayek; 360. officers; 361. 60; 362. Spain; 363. Theodore Roosevelt; 364. Ian Fleming's birth; 365. qi; 366. Canvas; 367. a mistake; 368. Bayer Company; 369. Egypt; 370. Perrault; 371. Sumo wrestling; 372. Indane, Bharat Gas, HP Gas respectively; 373. 734; 374. southern China; 375. Che Guevara; 376. Million Dollar Baby; 377. male favourite of a person or group; 378. fumarole; 379. Irrawaddy delta; 380. 25; 381. c; 382. IT services firm; 383. J.K. Rowling; 384. 22; 385. 222; 386. a school teacher; 387. The last Nizam of Hyderabad; 388. b; 389. Adecco; 390. Micro; 391. the Republic of Ireland; 392. 2,33,606; 393. Ratan Tata; 394. Nigeria; 395. 1.85 m; 396. Shravan Kumar; 397. Jeffrey Archer; 398. Zafrullah Khan; 399. the mobile phone; 400. more than 1400; 401. Archbishop Desmond Tutu; 402. Jawaharlal Nehru; 403. FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; 404. Sureshot; 405. Rudyard Kipling; 406. whooping cough; 407. Mongolia; 408. Isak Dinesen; 409. the first mother-daughter team to climb the Everest; 410. butt; 411. William Blake.

2. An applicant need to have stayed in the US for years to be eligible to run for the office of the President?
3. Madonna's tour pulled in 1.3 m. fans in 25 countries in 2006 and raked in \$ 260 m. It was the highest ever for
4. Just by changing the 4th and 5th letters of 'convene', get a synonym for the word
5. Vijay Ghat is the samadhi of
6. The playing area of ice hockey is a (rind /rink / ring).
7. The Grand Inga is the world's biggest dam project proposed for which country?
8. The number of berths in a train coach
9. In a poll, they were voted Hollywood's richest couple in early 2008: Mexican beauty and businessman beau Francois-Henri Pinault.
10. At the end of 2007, Indian Army had a shortage of 11,238
11. About per cent of India's IAS officers are above 40.
12. The national anthem of this country has been without lyrics since 1978.
13. The first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize
14. James Bond stamps were brought out by Britain to mark 100 years since
15. The life force in Chinese philosophy
16. (Canvas/Canvass) is a kind of material
17. 'Faux pa' is (a tool / a mistake/ an address / a title)
18. The company that manufactured aspirin
369. Africa's oldest civilization
370. Who authored the fairy tale with a character named Barbebleue, who murdered his wives
371. The Emperor's Cup is given for
372. The brand names of cooking gas sold by IOC, BP and HPCL
373. The number of successful candidates in Civil Services Exam in 2008
374. The most economically advanced region of China
375. The role that won Best Actor prize at Cannes, 2008 for Benicio Del Toro
376. Which of these films is a female boxing story: The Exchange, The Class, Million Dollar Baby
377. Blue-eyed boy is the
378. An opening in a volcano. The answer begins with 'fum'
379. The delta considered Myanmar's rice bowl
380. How old was Justine Henin when she announced retirement from tennis in 2008?
381. Jody Williams won Nobel Peace Prize for her work in creating awareness about a. smoking b. cancer c. land-mines d. guns
382. Capgemini is Europe's largest
383. Neil Murray is the husband of a celebrity. Who is it ?
384. In 1945, what percentage of the total UN membership of 51 countries were in the Security Council?
385. The UN norm for police personnel per lakh population
386. The role played by Mark Wahlberg in M. Night Shyamalan's film 'The Happening'
387. Who is Mir Osman Ali Khan?

Booker Prize Twice

J.M. Coetzee (South Africa) and Peter Carey (Australia) have won the Man Booker Prize two times each.

countries.

146. The country where identical twins are President and Prime Minister
147. 'Spry' means: a. vigorous b. too old c. lazy d. secretive
148. Complete this slogan from T.H. White's novel "The Sword in the Stone": 'Whatever is Not Forbidden is'
149. duck-egg blue is : a. bluish green b. pale, greenish blue c. sky blue d. deep blue
150. 90% of Kosovo's 2 m. people are ethnic
151. Delhi's first tabloid
152. DLR is Germany's
153. Who is Fr. Anthony Francis Sharma?
154. The prestigious prize awarded annually by Pacific Rim Voices
155. The territory which has emerged as the world's number one gaming market. Its 24 casinos made \$ 6.96 in 2006.
156. The inventor of safety pin
157. Africa's largest city
158. The actor-director who has won five Oscars and was mayor of a town for a while.
159. Hino is Japan's largest maker of
160. The first screen kiss in Hindi

Greetings from the Moon

China broadcast greetings and 100 Taiwanese songs from its moon probe in Sept. 08, to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. The Chang'e-1 satellite is named after a lonely goddess who lives with a rabbit on the moon and pines for her husband.

- cinema was in 1936, between Ashok Kumar and
461. The largest cash prize for US fiction
462. 'blow-by-blow' is (a. described in detail b. punishment c. little by little d. class by class)
463. What did De Witt Wallace launch in 1924?
464. The plural of 'index' when referring to books: indexes /indices/index.
465. Jaipur, founded in 1728, was the capital of the Rajput state of
466. What is 'real property'?
467. Why are some birds called rain-birds?
468. The first fully automatic gun
469. Peeler is a nickname of British policeman. Its origin?

Answers

412. Brave New World; 413. Kuomintang; 414. New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut; 415. wordage; 416. armpit; 417. intemperance; 418. ethonone; 419. Stephen Hawking; 420. fourth; 421. pigtail; 422. keyboard; 423. Lucknow; 424. Camelot; 425. Founders' shares; 426. chin; 427. copper, nickel and zinc; 428. Prince Akishino; 429. Pluto; 430. Mysore; 431. zero; 432. France's WWI PM George Clemenceau; 433. Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich; 434. World Cup player; 435. Condoleezza Rice; 436. Harry Potter; 437. condominium; 438. 25 to 50 years; 439. Bankimchandra's 'Ananda Math'; 440. coal; 441. naval captain; 442. 87; 443. Egypt; 444. Adam Smith; 445. bald eagle, dragon, bear, lion, beaver; 446. Poland; 447. a; 448. Compulsory; 449. b; 450. Albanians; 451. Metro Now; 452. Space Programme; 453. Nepal's first Bishop; 454. Kiriama Prize; 455. Macau; 456. Walter Hunt; 457. Cairo; 458. Clint Eastwood; 459. Trucks; 460. Denka Rani; 461. \$20,000- Story Prize; 462. a; 463. The Readers Digest; 464. indexes; 465. Jaipur; 466. Land and buildings; 467. Their cry is supposed to indicate the approach of rain; 468. Maxim machine-gun; 469. British Prime Minister Robert Peel who set up the London metropolitan police.

12. Aldous Huxley's novel whose title was taken from Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'
13. Taiwan's main opposition party
14. New England consists of the American states
15. The number of words used in an article is called
16. Axilla is the (knee/armpit/ temple/ anus)
17. This can mean excessive drinking of alcoholic liquor (abstinence / in temperance/ temperance / prohibition)
18. The gas ketene is also known as
19. A celebrity afflicted by Lou Gehrig's disease
20. International Polar Year was launched in Paris on Mar. 1, 2007. It was the since 1882. (second / third / fourth / fifth)
21. What is the long braid of hair hanging at the back of the head called?
22. A set of keys on a typewriter
23. Jiah Khan, 19, who 'paired opposite Amitabh Bachchan in 'Nisshabd' is a school student in New York. Her mother hails from
24. The place where, according to legend, British King Arthur held court with the Knights of the Round Table
25. The name for shares issued to the founders of a company
26. A fossette is a dimple on the
27. German silver is an alloy of
28. Japanese Princess Kiko's husband
29. Clyde Tombaugh discovered
30. The Central Institute of Indian Languages is located at
31. The number of MBA graduates in China is around 30,000. Ten years ago it was
432. The French aircraft carrier Clemenceau was named for
433. Who follows Lakshmi Mittal, the topper in Sunday Times rich list of 2008?
434. Ireland's Norman Whiteside, who was only 17 years and 41 days in 1982, was the youngest
435. Whom did Angela Merkel unseat as the world's most powerful woman in 2006?
436. Quidditch is a favourite sport of (David Copperfield / Mark Twain / Harry Potter / Tom Sawyer)
437. What is a building containing individually owned flats called?
438. The average life of a tea plant
439. Vande Mataram was published for the first time in 1882 as part of which novel?
440. Banana oil is obtained from (banana / pineapple / coal / pepper)
441. Julie Andrews married a widowed in 'The Sound of Music' (squadron leader / naval captain / man of letters / architect)
442. The number of 'Goosebumps' books, best-selling children's books, written by R.L. Stine
443. Kifaya is an opposition coalition in which country?
444. Who replaced Sir Edward Elgar as the face on Britain's £ 20 note in 2007?
445. USA, China, Russia, Britain and Canada are symbolised by these animals - bear, beaver, dragon, bald eagle and lion. Put them in the correct order, corresponding to the

Highest Military Expenditure

The highest military expenditure per capita is recorded by Israel where it is \$ 1429.03 per person.

The Seven Wonders of the World

Seven monuments of the ancient world that appeared on various lists of late antiquity are known as the:

Seven Wonders of the World

1. The Colossus of Rhodes
2. The Pharos (lighthouse) at Alexandria
3. The Hanging Gardens (and Walls) of Babylon
4. The temple of Artemis (or Diana) at Ephesus
5. The Pyramids of Khufu
6. The tomb of Mausolus at Halicarnassus
7. The statue of Zeus at Olympia.

The tradition of "Seven Wonders" has inspired succeeding generations to compile countless lists since the Alexandrian era.

Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages

1. The Colosseum of Rome
2. The Catacombs of Alexandria
3. The Great Wall of China
4. Stonehenge
5. The Porcelain Tower (or Pagoda) of Nanking, China
6. The Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy
7. Hagia Sophia (or Sancta Sophia) of Constantinople

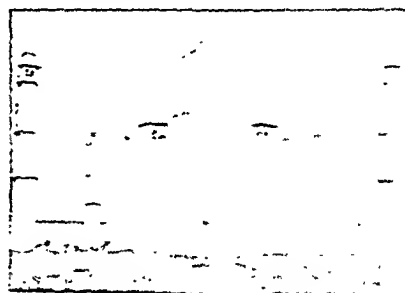
Seven Natural Wonders of the World

1. The Grand Canyon, Colorado River, Arizona
2. Rio de Janeiro harbour

3. Iguassu Falls, Argentina
4. Yosemite Valley and the Giant Sequoias of California
5. Mount Everest, on the border of Tibet and Nepal
6. The Nile River, Egypt
7. The Northern Lights, appearing over northern Canada and Alaska

Seven Wonders of Today

1. The Great Pyramid of Egypt and the adjacent Great Sphinx of Giza
2. Hagia Sophia, 6th century, in modern-day Istanbul
3. Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy
4. The Taj Mahal, at Agra, India



5. The Colosseum, Rome, Italy
6. The Sphinx, Giza, Egypt
7. The Great Wall of China

Seven Wonders of the World

India commemorated four from among the
Vellore Fort, Simhagad Fort, and others

The Messner Record

Reinhold Messner, Austrian mountaineer, is the first man to climb all 14 of the world's mountains exceeding a height of 8000 m. He also made the first solo ascent of Mount Everest without the use of contained oxygen for breathing. Messner was the first to cross Antarctica without either dogs or machines.

70. The torch used to kindle the Olympic flame is first lit by
71. Who is called the 'Sage of Chel-sea'?
72. The last king of Egypt
73. A person who deliberately sets fire to property fireman/firebug/firebrand / firebomb
74. Hargreaves' spinning jenny 'was nicknamed a 'jenny' after
75. India paper is made of
76. Minerva of Roman mythology is identified with the Greek
77. Eva Braun was wife of
78. The five geographic areas symbolized by the circles on the Olympic flag
79. The Jamaican song writer whose work drew the world's attention to reggae music
80. The height of Goliath, the Biblical character
81. Ailuro-mancy is predicting the future by observing the way (a. a man walks b. a horse neighs c. a bird flies d. a cat jumps)
482. What is also known as Ayers Rock?
483. The signs of the zodiac between Leo and Sagittarius
484. Oscar Romero cared for the poor, but was murdered. In which country?
485. The Pope who held office for just 12 days.
486. The symbol of Judaism
487. Why is 'lb.' the abbreviation for pound?
488. An animal is considered extinct when there are no definite reports of the species for how long?
489. How many meteorites fall to earth every year?
490. Astronauts eat about 70 per cent (more/less) than on Earth.
491. What is pH?
492. Laser was invented in 1960. By whom?
493. What did the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev do to the elements?
494. A ruler measures
495. What is Chomolungma?
496. Mythology: Minotaur, the monster that lived at the island of Crete, was part human, part
497. Tetrasyllable is a word of (three / four) syllables.
498. Whom did Lal Bahadur Shastri call the Gandhi of U.P.?
499. Which country has about 24% of the world's petroleum reserves?
500. The oldest (76) man to reach the Everest

Answers 470. the sun's rays at Olympia, Greece, 471. Thomas Carlyle; 472. Farouk I; 473. firebug; 474. his daughter; 475. vegetable fibre; 476. Athena; 477. Adolf Hitler; 478. Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, America; 479. Bob Marley; 480. 9' 3"; 481. d; 482. Uluru; 483. Virgo, Libra and Scorpio; 484. El Salvador; 485. Urban VII; 486. the Star of David, 487. pound comes from the Roman weight 'libra pondo'; 488. 50 years; 489. about 500; 490. less; 491. potential Hydrogen; 492. Theodore Maiman; 493. set them out as a Periodic Table; 494. length; 495. Mount Everest, to Tibetans; 496. bull; 497. four; 498. Purushottam Das Tandon; 499. Saudi Arabia; 500. Min Bahadur Serchan.

Nelson Mandela	Lawyer	Thomas Malthus	Clergyman
Noah Webster	Lawyer	Valentina Tereshkova	Cotton Mill worker
Norodom Sihanouk	Musician	Walter De La Mare	Oil Company
Ronald Regan	Actor		Worker
Samuel Morse	Artist	WG Grace	Doctor
Sir Walter Scott	Lawyer	William Faulkner	Postmaster
Thomas Hardy	Architect	William Wordsworth	Stamp Distributor

World's Tallest Buildings

Rank	Tower/City	Year	Storeys	Height	
				(m)	(ft)
1.	Taipei 101, Taipei, Taiwan	2004	101	509	1,670
2.	Petronas Tower 1, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1998	88	452	1,483
3.	Petronas Tower 2, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1998	88	452	1,483
4.	Sears Tower, Chicago	1974	110	442	1,450
5.	Jin Mao Building, Shanghai	1999	88	421	1,380

1. World Trade Center twin towers of New York City ranked fifth and sixth (at 1,368 ft and 1,362 ft) on this list until their destruction on Sept. 11, 2001; 2. A building differs from a tower in that the former is considered to be a structure that is designed for residential, business, or manufacturing purposes. Also, an essential characteristic of a building is that it has floors.

World's Tallest Towers

Sl.No.	Tower/City	Year	Height	
			(m)	(ft)
1.	Canadian National (CN) Tower, Toronto, Canada	1975	553	1,815
2.	Ostankino Tower, Moscow, Russia	1967	537	1,762
3.	Oriental Pearl Tower, Shanghai, China	1995	492	1,615
4.	Milad Tower, Tehran, Iran	2008	435	1,427
5.	Menara Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1996	421	1,380

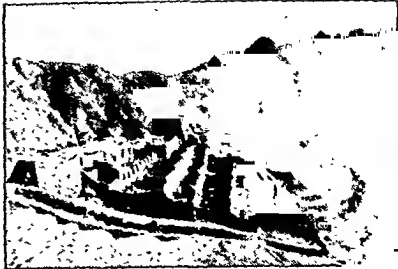
The First Flagship of the Navy

H.M.S. Achilles was commissioned as HMIS Delhi in UK in 1949. It became the first flagship of the Indian Navy. After Jan. 26, 1950, it became INS Delhi, which was decommissioned in 1978.

- basis of voting.
- The Taj Mahal (India)
- The Great Wall of China
- The Colosseum (Rome)
- Pink ruins of Peta (Jordan)
- Statue of Christ the Redeemer (Rio

- Janeiro)
- Incan ruins of Machu Picchu (Peru)
- The Mayan city of Chichen Itza (Mexico)

Other compilers of 'wonder' lists include the Panama Canal, the Greek arthenon on the Acropolis at Athens, the medieval Mont-Saint Michel off the coast of France, St. Peter's Church in Rome, and the temples of Nikko National



Machu Picchu

Park in Honshu, Japan. Famous palaces and ruins include the Moonish Alhambra of Granada, Angkor in Cambodia, Mayan ruins like Chichen Itza in Mexican Yacatan, and Egypt's Great Temple of Amon in Karnak.

Past Professions of Celebrities

vesop	Slave	Henrik Ibsen	Pharmacist
Alex Harvey	Lion Tamer	Issac Asimov	Biochemist
Alighieri Dante	Embassy Official	James Callaghan	Tax Official
Antoine Laurent Lavoisier	Tax Collector	Jean Genet	Professional Criminal and Male Prostitute
Benjamin Disraeli	Novelist	Johann von Goethe	Fire Chief, Newspaper Critic and Court Official
Benjamin Franklin	Printer	John Boyd Dunlop	Vet
Cary Grant	Acrobat	John Mills	Toilet Paper Salesman
Casanova	Librarian, Spy, Lottery Director	Jonathan Swift	Clergyman
Clement Attlee	Lawyer and Social Worker	Joseph Goebbels	Newspaper Editor
Clint Eastwood	Swimming Instructor	Jules Verne	Librettist
Desmond Tutu	Schoolteacher	Julius Nyerere	Teacher
Emile Zola	Journalist	Lech Walesa	Electrician
George Orwell	Policeman	Marcello Mastroianni	Draughtsman
Giuseppe Garibaldi	Candlemaker, Privateer		
Gregor Mendel	Monk		

An Ornithologist with a Difference

A.O. Hume, the man who founded the Indian National Congress in 1885 and was its General Secretary for 23 years, was an ornithologist known all over the world. He wrote a book on Indian birds.

1997 Titanic
1998 Shakespeare in Love
1999 American Beauty
2000 Gladiator
2001 A Beautiful Mind
2002 Chicago

2003 The Lord of the Rings : The Return of the King
2004 Million Dollar Baby
2005 Crash
2006 The Departed
2007 No Country For Old Man

Nobel Prize Winners since 1995

Physics

1995 Martin Perl, Frederick Reines, U.S.
1996 David M. Lee, Douglas D. Osheroff, Robert C. Richardson, U.S.
1997 Steven Chu, William D. Phillips, U.S.; Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Fr.
1998 Robert B. Laughlin, Horst L. Stormer, Daniel C. Tsui, U.S.
1999 Gerardus 't Hooft and Martinus J.G. Veltman, Netherlands
2000 Jack S. Kilby, U.S.; Zhores I. Alferov, Russ.
2001 Eric A. Cornell, Carl E. Wieman, U.S.; Wolfgang Ketterle, Ger.
2002 Riccardo Giacconi, Raymond Davis Jr. U.S.; Masatoshi Koshiba, Jap.
2003 Alexei A. Abrikosov, US.-Rus.; Vitaly I. Ginzburg, Rus.; Anthony J. Leggett, U.K.-US.
2004 David J. Gross, H. David Politzer, Frank Wilczek (USA)
2005 Roy Glauber, John Hall (both US), and Theodor Haensch (Germany)
2006 John C. Mather and George F. Smoot (both US)
2007 Peter Gruenberg (Germany), Albert Fert (France)

2008 Makoto Kobayashi, Toshihide Masakawa (both Jap.), Yoichiro Nambu (Jap-born US)

Chemistry

1995 Paul Crutzen, Dutch; Mario Molina, Mex.-U.S.
1996 Harold W. Kroto, Br.; Robert F. Curl Jr., Richard E. Smalley, U.S.
1997 Paul D. Boyer, U.S., & John E. Walker, Br.; Jens C. Skou, Dan.
1998 Walter Kohn, U.S.; John A. Pople, Br.
1999 Ahmed H. Zewail, U.S.
2000 Alan J. Heeger, U.S.; Alan G. MacDiarmid, NZ-US.; Hideki Shirakawa, Japan
2001 K. Barry Sharpless, U.S.; William S. Knowles, U.S.; Ryoji Noyori, Japan
2002 John B. Fenn, U.S., Kurt Wuthrich, Swiss, Koichi Tanaka, Jap.
2003 Peter Agre, Roderick Mackinnon, U.S.
2004 Aaron Ciechanover, Avram Hershko (both Israel), Irwin Rose (USA)
2005 Yves Chauvin (France), Robert H.

Henry Dunant

A 1957 postage stamp to mark the 19th International Red Cross Conference in New Delhi had Henri Dunant on a 15 np. stamp. The 1963 Red Cross centenary stamp had the picture of Dunant with the centenary emblem.

Oscar Awards

1928	Wings	1963	Tom Jones
1929	The Broadway Melody	1964	My Fair Lady
1930	All Quiet on the Western Front	1965	The Sound of Music
1931	Cimarron, RKO Radio	1966	A Man for All Seasons
1932	Grand Hote	1967	In the Heat of the Night
1933	Cavalcade	1968	Oliver!
1934	It Happened One Night	1969	Midnight Cowboy
1935	Mutiny on the Bounty	1970	Patton
1936	The Great Ziegfeld	1971	The French Connection
1937	The Life of Emile Zola	1972	The Godfather
1938	You Can't Take It with You	1973	The Sting
1939	Gone with the Wind	1974	The Godfather
1940	Rebecca	1975	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
1941	How Green Was My Valley	1976	Rocky
1942	Mrs. Miniver	1977	Annie Hall
1943	Casablanca	1978	The Deer Hunter
1944	Going My Way	1979	Kramer vs. Kramer
1945	The Lost Weekend	1980	Ordinary People
1946	The Best Years of Our Lives	1981	Chariots of Fire
1947	Gentleman's Agreement	1982	Gandhi
1948	Hamlet	1983	Terms of Endearment
1949	All the King's Men	1984	Amadeus
1950	All About Eve	1985	Out of Africa
1951	An American in Paris	1986	Platoon
1952	The Greatest Show on Earth	1987	The Last Emperor
1953	From Here to Eternity	1988	Rain Man
1954	On the Waterfront	1989	Driving Miss Daisy
1955	Marty	1990	Dances With Wolves
1956	Around the World in 80 Days	1991	The Silence of the Lambs
1957	The Bridge on the River Kwai	1992	Unforgiven
1958	Gigi	1993	Schindler's List
1959	Ben-Hur	1994	Forrest Gump
1960	The Apartment	1995	Braveheart
1961	West Side Story	1996	The English Patient
1962	Lawrence of Arabia		

An Unforgettable Ship Journey

Satyajit Ray went to London in 1950 on a business trip. During his ship journey he wrote the initial treatment of his dream project, *Pather Panchali*. The film *Bicycle Thieves* that he saw while in London influenced him, and he completed his treatment of *Pather Panchali* script on his return journey to India.

Economics

- 1996 James A. Mirrlees, Br.; William Vickrey, Can.-U.S.
 1997 Robert C. Merton, U.S.; Myron S. Scholes, Can.-U.S.
 1998 Amartya Sen, Indian
 1999 Robert A. Mundell, Can.
 2000 James J. Heckman, Daniel L. McFadden, U.S.
 2001 George A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence, Joseph E. Stiglitz, U.S.

- 2002 Daniel Kahneman, Vernon L. Smith, U.S.
 2003 Robert F. Engle, U.S.; Clive W. J. Granger, U.K.
 2004 Finn Kydland (Norway), Edward Prescott (USA)
 2005 Robert Aumann (Israeli-US) and Thomas C. Schelling (US)
 2006 Dr. Edmund Phelps (US)
 2007 Leonid Hurwicz, Eric Maskin and Roger Myerson (US)
 2008 Paul Krugman (US)

Jnanpith Awards

Year	Winner	Language	
1965	G. Sankara Kurup	Malayalam	
1966	Tara Shankar Banerjee	Bengali	
1967	Dr. K.V. Puttappa	Kannada	
1967	Umashankar Joshi	Gujarati	
1968	Sumitranand Pant	Hindi	
1969	Firaq Gorakhpuri	Urdu	
1970	Dr. Viswanatha Satyanarayana	Telugu	
1971	Bishnu Dey	Bengali	
1972	Dr. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar	Hindi	
1973	Dattatreya Ramachandra Bendre	Kannada	
1973	Gopinath Mohanty	Oriya	
1974	Vishnu Saktharam Khandekar	Marathi	
1975	P.V. Akhilandam (Akhilan)	Tamil	
1976	Ashapura Devi	Bengali	
1977	Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth	Kannada	
1978	S.H. Vatsyayan	Hindi	
1979	Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya	Assamese	
1980	S.K. Pottekkatt	Malayalam	
1981	Amrita Pritam	Punjabi	
1982	Mahadevi Verma	Hindi	
1983	Dr. Masti Venkatesh Iyengar	Kannada	
1984	Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai	Malayalam	
1985	Pannalal Patel	Gujarati	
1986	Satchidanand Rautroy	Oriya	
1987	V.V. Shirwadkar	Marathi	
1988	Dr. C. Narayana Reddy	Telugu	
1989	Qurratul-ain-Haider	Urdu	
1990	Vinayak Krishna Gokak	Kannada	
1991	Subhas Mukhopadhyay	Bengali	
1992	Naresh Mehta	Hindi	
1993	Sitakant Mahapatra	Oriya	
1994	U. R. Anantha Murthy	Kannada	
1995	M.T. Vasudevan Nair	Malayalam	
1996	Mahasweta Devi	Bengali	

A Shared Marriage Anniversary

In 1908 Winston Churchill married Clementine Hozier on Sept. 12. In 1953 John F. Kennedy married society photographer Jacqueline Bouvier on Sept. 12.

Grubbs, Richard H. Schrock (both U.S.)

2006 Roger Kornberg (US)

2007 Gerhard Ertl (Germany)

2008 Osamu Shimomura (Jap), Martin Chalfie and Roger Tsien (both US)

Physiology or Medicine

1995 Edward B. Lewis, Eric F. Wieschaus, U.S.; Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Ger.

1996 Peter C. Doherty, Austral.; Rolf M. Zinkernagel, Swiss

1997 Stanley B. Prusiner, U.S.

1998 Robert F. Furchgott, Louis J. Ignarro, Ferid Murad, U.S.

1999 Gunter Blobel, U.S.

2000 Arvid Carlsson, Swed.; Paul Greengard, U.S.; Eric R. Kandel, Aus.-U.S.

2001 Leland H. Hartwell, U.S.; R. Timothy (Tim) Hunt, Sir Paul M. Nurse, Br.

2002 Sydney Brenner, U.K.; H. Robert Howitz, U.S.; John E. Sulston, U.K.

2003 Paul C. Lauterbur, U.S.; Sir Peter Mansfield, U.K.

2004 Richard Axel and Linda Buck (USA)

2005 Barry J. Marshall, Robin Warren (Austral.)

2006 Andrew Fire and Craig Mello (both US)

2007 Dr. Oliver Smithies (US), Mario R. Capecchi (US), Martin Evans (Britan).

2008 Harald Zur Hausen (Germany), Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Luc Montagnier (both France).

Literature

1995 Seamus Heaney, Ir.

1996 Wisława Szymborska, Pol.

1997 Dario Fo, It.

1998 José Saramago, Por.

1999 Günter Grass, Ger.

2000 Gao Xingjian, Chin.

2001 Sir V.S. Naipaul, Br.

2002 Imre Kertész, Hung.

2003 John Maxwell Coetzee, S.Afr.

2004 Elfriede Jelinek (Austria)

2005 Harold Pinter (Br.)

2006 Orhan Pamuk (Turkey)

2007 Doris Lessing (Britain)

2008 Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio (Fr.)

Peace

1995 Joseph Rotblat, Pol.Br.; Pugwash Conference

1996 Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, Jos. Ramos-Horta, Timorese

1997 Jody Williams, U.S.; International Campaign to Ban Landmines

1998 John Hume, David Trimble, N.Ir.

1999 Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), Fr.

2000 Kim Dae Jung, S.Kor.

2001 UN; Kofi Annan, Ghana

2002 Jimmy Carter, U.S.

2003 Shirin Ebadi, Iran

2004 Wangari Maathai (Kenya)

2005 UN International Atomic Energy Agency and its D-G Mohamed El Baradei (Egypt)

2006 Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) and the Grameen Bank.

2007 Al Gore (former US Vice President) and UN's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

2008 Martti Ahtisaari (Fin.), former President of Finland

The First Nobel for Economics

Jan Tinbergen the Dutch economist who won the first Nobel Prize for Economics with Ragnar Frisch was noted for his development of Econometric models.

The Ramon Magsaysay Awardees From India

Year	Name or Company	Category	Year	Name	Category
1958	Vinoba Bhave	CL	1985	Murlidhar Amte	PS
1959	Chintaman Deshmukh	GS	1989	Lakshmi Chand Jain	PS
1961	Amitabha Chowdhury	JLCCA	1991	K.V. Subbanna	JLCCA
1962	Mother Teresa	PIU	1992	Ravi Shankar	JLCCA
1963	Dara Khurody	CL	1993	Banoo Jehangir Coyaji	PS
1963	Verghese Kurien	CL	1994	Kiran Bedi	GS
1963	Tribhuvandas Patel	CL	1996	Pandurang Athavale	CL
1964	Welthy Fisher	PIU	1996	T.N. Seshan	GS
1965	Jayaprakash Narayan	PS	1997	Mahasweta Devi	JLCCA
1966	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay	CL	1997	Mahesh Chander Mehta	PS
1967	Satyajit Ray	JLCCA	2000	Jockin Arputham	PIU
1971	M.S. Swaminathan	CL	2000	Aruna Roy	CL
1974	M.S. Subbulakshmi	PS	2001	Rajendra Singh	CL
1975	Boobli George Verghese	JLCCA	2002	Sandeep Pandey	EL
1976	Henning Holck-Larsen	PIU	2003	James Michael Lyngdoh	GS
1976	Sombhu Mitra	JLCCA	2003	Shantha Sinha,	CL
1977	Ela Ramesh Bhatt	CL	2004	Laxminarayan Ramdas	PIU
1979	Mabelle Arole	CL	2005	V Shanta .	PS
1979	Rajanikant Arole	CL	2006	Arvind Kejriwal	EL
1981	Gour Kishore Ghosh	JLCCA	2007	Palagummi Sainath	JLCCA
1981	Pramod Karan Sethi	CL	2008	Dr. Prakash Amte & Dr. Mandakini Amte	CL
1982	Manibhai Desai	PS			
1982	Chandi Prasad Bhatt	CL			
1982	Arun Shourie	JLCCA			
1984	Rasipuram Laxman	JLCCA			

GS -Government Service; PS-Public Service;
CL-Community Leadership; JLCCA-Journalism,
Literature, and the Creative Communication Arts;
PIU-Peace and International Understanding; EL-
Emergent Leadership.

Phalke Award Winners

Year	Name	Year	Name
1969	Smt. Devika Rani Roerich	1971	Shri. Prithvi Raj Kapoor
1970	Shri. B.N. Sircar	1972	Shri. Pankaj Mullick
		1973	Smt. Sulochana (Ruby Mayers)

Gandhiji on Stamps

The first foreigner to figure on a British stamp was Mahatma Gandhi. The first issue of Gandhi stamps by India after independence was dated Aug. 15, 1948.

1997 Ali Sardar Jafri	Urdu	2001 Rajendra Keshavlal Shah	Gujarati
1998 Girish Karnad	Kannada	2002 D. Jayakanthan	Tamil
1999 Nirmal Verma	Hindi	2003 Vinda Karandikar	Marathi
1999 Gurdayal Singh	Punjabi	2004 Rahman Rahi	Kashmiri
2000 Indira Goswami	Assamese		

Booker Prizes

1969 P.H. Newby	<i>Something To Answer For</i>	1990 A.S. Byatt	<i>Possession</i>
1970 Bernice Rubens	<i>The Elected Member</i>	1991 Ben Okri	<i>The Famished Road</i>
1971 V.S. Naipaul	<i>In A Free State</i>	1992* Michael Ondaatje	<i>The English Patient</i>
1972 John Berger	<i>G</i>	Barry Unsworth	<i>Sacred Hunger</i>
1973 J.G. Farrell	<i>The Siege of Krishnapur</i>	1993 Roddy Dodoyale	<i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i>
1974* Nadine Gordimer	<i>The Conservationist</i>	1994 James Kelman	<i>How Late It Was, How Late</i>
Stanley Middleton	<i>Holiday</i>	1995 Pat Barker	<i>The Ghost Road</i>
1975 Ruth Praver Jhabwala	<i>Heat And Dust</i>	1996 Graham Swift	<i>Last Orders</i>
1976 David Storey	<i>Saville</i>	1997 Arundhati Roy	<i>The God Of Small Things</i>
1977 Paul Scott	<i>Staying On</i>	1998 Ian Mcewan	<i>Amsterdam</i>
1978 Iris Murdoch	<i>The Sea, The Sea</i>	1999 J.M.Coetzee	<i>Disgrace</i>
1979 Penelope Fitzgerald	<i>Offshore</i>	2000 Margaret Atwood	<i>The Blind Assassin</i>
1980 William Golding	<i>Rites Of Passage</i>	2001 Peter Carey	<i>True History of the Kelly Gang</i>
1981 Salman Rushdie	<i>Midnight's Children</i>	2002 Yann Martel	<i>Life of Pi</i>
1982 Thomas Keneally	<i>Schindler's Ark</i>	2003 D.B.C Pierre	<i>Vernon God Little</i>
1983 J.M. Coetzee	<i>Life And Times Of Michael. K.</i>	2004 Alan Hollinghurst	<i>The Line of Beauty</i>
1984 Anita Brookner	<i>Hotel Du Lac</i>	2005 John Banville	<i>The Sea</i>
1985 Keri Hulme	<i>The Bone People</i>	2006 Kiran Desai	<i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>
1986 Kingsley Amis	<i>The Old Devils</i>	2007 Anne Enright	<i>The Gathering</i>
1987 Penelope Lively	<i>Moon Tiger</i>	2008 Aravind Adiga	<i>The White Tiger</i>
1988 Peter Carey	<i>Oscar And Lucinda</i>		
1989 Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>The Remains Of The Day</i>		

* Co-Winners

Most Common Surnames

China : Li	Italy : Rossi	Spain : Garcia
France : Martin	Netherlands : De Vries	Sweden : Johansson
Germany : Muller	Russia : Ivanov	UK/USA : Smith

Awards & Honours

Padma Awards 2008

Padma Vibhushan (13): Ms. Asha Bhosle (Art, Maharashtra); Justice (Dr.) A. S. Nanad (Public Affairs, Uttar Pradesh); P.N. Jhar (Public Affairs, Delhi); Pranab Mukherjee (Public Affairs, Delhi); Dr. E. Sreedharan (Science and Engineering, Delhi); Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri (Science and Engineering, Delhi);



Asha Bhosle

Edmund Hillary (Posthumous) (Sports, New Zealand); Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar (Sports, Maharashtra); Viswanathan Anand (Sports, Tamil Nadu); Lakshmi Narayan Mittal (Trade and Industry, UK); N.R. Narayana Murthy (Trade and Industry, Karnataka); P.R.S. Oberoi (Trade and Industry, Delhi); Ratan Naval Tata (Trade and Industry, Maharashtra).

Padma Bhushan (32): Shri Amarnath Sehgal (Posthumous) (Art, Delhi); Ustad Asad Ali Khan (Art, Delhi); Smt. P. Susheela (Art, Tamil Nadu); Ustad Rahim Fahimuddin Dagar (Art, Delhi); Prof. Sushil Kumar Saxena (Art, Delhi); Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (Civil Service, Delhi); K. Padmanabhaiah (Civil Service, Delhi); V. Ramachandran (Civil Service, Kerala); Jasdev Singh (Commentary & Broadcasting, Delhi); Prof. Brijinder Nath Goswami (Literature and Education, Chandigarh); Prof. Ji Xianlin (Literature and Education,

China); Prof. Kaushik Basu (Literature and Education, USA); Prof. (Smt.) Padma Devi (Literature and Education, USA); Ravindra Kelekar (Literature and Education, Goa); Dr. (Smt.) Shayama Chona (Literature and Education, Delhi); Shri Lal Shukla (Literature and Education, Uttar Pradesh); Dr. Srinivasa S.R. Varadhan (Literature and Education, USA); Prof. T.N. Coomaraswamy (Literature and Education, Hyderabad); Prof. (Dr.) Jagjit Singh Chopra (Medicine, Chandigarh); Prof. Nirmal Kumar Ganguly (Medicine, Delhi); Man Sagar Ahmad (Public Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir); Lord Meghnad Desai (Public Affairs, UK); Mr. Yuli Mikhailovitch Vorontsov (Posthumous) (Public Affairs, Russia); Prof. Asis Datta (Science and Engineering, Delhi); Prof. Sukh Dev (Science and Engineering, Delhi); Mrs. Sunita Williams (Science and Engineering,



Meghnad Desai

Astronautics USA); Dr. Vasant Gowarikar (Science and Engineering, Maharashtra); D.R. Mehta (Social Work, Rajasthan); Mr. Dominique Lapierre (Social Work, France); Dr. (Ms.) Inderjit Kaur (Social Work, Punjab); Suresh Kumar Neotia (Trade and Industry and Social Work, Delhi); Baba Neelkanth Kalyani (Trade and Industry, Maharashtra); K. V. Kamath (Trade and Industry, Maharashtra); Shri Nadar (Trade and Industry, Tamil Nadu); Vikram Parag (Trade and Industry, USA).

The First Film Stars on Indian Stamps

The first filmstars to have been the subjects of Indian postage stamps are Charlie Chaplin, Nargis Dutt, Sivaji Ganesan, M.G. Dhanoo and Raj Kapoor.

Indian Beauty Queens

Miss Universe

Name	Year
Sushmita Sen	1994
Lara Dutta	2000

Miss World

Reita Faria	1966
Aishwarya Rai	1994
Diana Hayden	1997
Yukta Mookhey	1999
Priyanka Chopra	2000

974	Shri. B.N. Reddy
975	Shri. Dhiren Ganguly
976	Smt. Kanan Devi
977	Shri. Nitin Bose
978	Shri. R.C. Boral
979	Shri. Sohrab Modi
1980	Shri. P. Jairaj
1981	Shri. Naushad Ali
1982	Shri. L.V. Prasad

1983	Smt. Durga Khote
1984	Shri. Satyajit Ray
1985	Shri. V. Shantharam
1986	Shri. B. Nagi Reddi
1987	Shri. Raj Kapoor
1988	Shri. Ashok Kumar
1989	Smt. Lata Mangeshkar
1990	Shri. A. Nageswara Rao
1991	Shri. Bhajji Pendharkar
1992	Shri. Bhupen Hazarika
1993	Shri. Majrooh Sultanpuri
1994	Shri. Dilipkumar
1995	Dr. Rajkumar
1996	Shri. Sivaji Ganesan
1997	Shri. Kavi Pradeep
1998	Shri. B.R. Chopra
1999	Shri. Hrishikesh Mukherjee
2000	Smt. Asha Bhonsle
2001	Shri. Yash Chopra
2002	Shri. Dev Anand
2003	Shri. Mrinal Sen
2004	Shri. Adoor Gopalakrishnan
2005	Shri. Shyam Benegal
2006	Tapan Sinha

Bharat Ratna

Bharat Ratna was established as India's highest civilian award in 1954. The first to be honoured were C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman. Some were made Bharat Ratna after their death.

The following are the recipients of the award so far. C. Rajagopalachari (1954); S. Radha krishnan (1954); C.V. Raman (1954); Jawaharlal Nehru (1955); Bhagwan Das (1955); M. Visweswariayya (1955), Govind Ballabh Pant (1957); D.K. Karve (1958); B.C. Roy (1961); P.D. Tandon (1961); Rajendra Prasad (1962); Zakir Hussain (1963); P.V. Kane (1963); Lal Bahadur Shastri (posthumous, 1966); Indira Gandhi (1971); V.V. Giri (1975); K. Kamaraj (posthumous

1976); Mother Teresa (1980); Vinoba Bhave (1983); 'Frontier Gandhi' Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan (1987); M.G. Ramachandran (posthumous, 1988), Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (posthumous, 1990); Dr. Nelson Mandela (1990); Rajiv Gandhi (posthumous, 1991); Sardar Vallabhai Patel (posthumous, 1991); Morarjee Desai (1991); J.R.D. Tata, Satyajit Ray, (posthumous), Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, (1992); Aruna Asaf Ali (posthumous); Gulzarilal Nanda (1997); APJ Abdul Kalam, M.S. Subbalakshmi, C.Subra- maniam (1998). Jaiprakash Narayan (posthumous); Amartya Sen, Ravi Shankar, Gopinath Bordoloi (posthumous) (1999); Ustad Bismillah Khan and Lata Mankeshkar (2001).

han Sabharwal (Social Work, Delhi); Dr. (Ms.) Sheela Barthakur (Social Work, Assam); V.R. Gowrishankar (Social Work, Karnataka); Vikramjit Singh Sahney (Social Work, Delhi); Yousaf Ali Musaliameettil Abdul Kader (Social Work, UAE); Baichung Bhutia (Sports, Sikkim); Ms. Bula Chowdhury Chakraborty (Sports, West Bengal); Dr. Amit Mitra (Trade and Industry, Delhi).



Bula Chowdhury

Film

International

80th Oscar Awards: **Film:** *No Country for Old Men*; **Director:** Joel Coen and Ethan Coen (*No Country for Old Men*); **Actor:** Daniel Day-Lewis (*There will be Blood*); **Actress:** Marion Cotillard (*La Vie en Rose*); **Supporting Actor:** Javien Bardem (*No Country for Old Men*); **Supporting Actress:** Tida Swinton (*Michael Clayton*); **Foreign Language Film:** *The Counterfeiters* (Austria); **Original Screenplay:** Diablo Cody (*Juno*); **Adapted Screenplay:** Joel Coen and Ethan Coen (*No Country for Old Men*); **Music (Song):** *Falling Slowly* (*Once*); **Music (Score):** *Atonement*, Dario Marianelli; **Documentary Short Subject:** *Freeheld*; **Sound Editing:** Karen Baker Landers and Per Hallberg (*The Bourne Ultimatum*); **Sound Mixing:** Scott Milan, David Parker and Kirk Francis (*The Bourne Ultimatum*); **Cinematography:** Robert Elswit (*There will be Blood*); **Animated Short Film:** *Peter and the Wolf*; **Short Film:** *Le Mozart des*

Pickpockets (*The Mozart of Pickpockets*); **Visual Effects:** *The Golden Compass*; **Documentary Feature:** *Taxi to the Dark Side*; **Film Editing:** Christopher Rouse (*The Bourne Ultimatum*); **Costume Design:** Alexandra Byrne (*Elizabeth: The Golden Age*).

61st Cannes Film Festival: Palme d'Or (Golden Palm): *Entre Les Murs*, Laurent Cantet (France); **Grand Prize:** *Gomorrah*, Matteo Garrone (Italy); **Jury Prize:** *Il Divo*, Paolo Sorrentino (Italy); **Special 61st Anniversary Prizes:** Catherine Deneuve (France) and Clint Eastwood (United States); **Director:** , Nuri Bilge Ceylan, *Three Monkeys* (Turkey); **Actor:** Benicio Del Toro, *Che* (United States); **Actress:** Sandra Corveloni, *Linho de Passe* (Brazil); **Screenplay:** Lean Pierre and Luc Dardenne, *Lorno's Silence* (Belgium); **Golden Camera (first-time director):** Steve McQueen, *Hunger* (Britain); **Short Film:** Marian Crisan, *Megotron* (Romania.)

National

54th National Film Awards: **Feature Film:** *Pulijanam* (Malayalam); **Director:** Madhur Bhandarkar, *Traffic Signal* (Hindi); **Actor:** Soumitra Chatterjee, *Podokkhep* (Bengali); **Actress:** Priyamani, *Paruthi Veeran* (Tamil); **Supporting Actor:** Dilip Prabhavalkar, *Lago Raho Munnabhai* and *Shenri* (Marathi); **Supporting Actress:** Konkona Sensharma, *Omkara* (Hindi); **Child Artist:** Divya Chahadkar, *Antarnad* (Konkani); **Male Playback Singer:** Gurudas Mann, *Warisshah-Isht Da Waris* (Punjabi); **Female Playback Singer:** Aarti Anlekar Tikekar, *Antarnad* (Konkani); **Cinematography Cameraman:**

Magsaysay Awards

Ramon Magsaysay (1907-1957) was the president of the Philippines from 1953 to 1957. He is known for successfully defeating the Communist-led Huk movement. The Magsaysay awards are given every year in his memory.

Padma Shri (57): Gangadhar Pradhan (Art, Orissa); Gennadi Mikhailovich Pechinkov (Art, Russia); Pandit Gokulotsavji Maharaj (Art, Madhya Pradesh); Hans Raj Hans (Art, Punjab); Dr. (Smt.) Helen Giri (Art, Meghalaya); Jatin Goswami (Art, Assam); Jawahar Wattal (Art, Delhi); John Martin Nelson (Art, Chhattisgarh); Jonnalagadda Gurappa Chetty (Art, Andhra Pradesh); Kekoo M. Gandhi (Art, Maharashtra); Madhuri Dixit (Art, Maharashtra); Mangala Prasad Mohanty (Art, Jharkhand); Manoj Night Shyamalan (Art, USA); Ms. Meenakshi Chitharanjan (Art, Tamil Nadu); Moozhikkulam Kochukuttan Chakyar (Art, Kerala); P.K. Narayanan Nambiar (Art, Kerala); Pratap Pawar (Art, UK); Smt. Sabitri Heisnam (Art, Manipur); Ms. Sentila T. Yanger (Art, Nagaland); Dr. Sirkazhi G. Sivachidambaram (Art, Tamil Nadu); Tom Alter (Art, Maharashtra); Prof. Yella Venkateswara Rao (Art, Andhra Pradesh); Ms. Barkha Dutt (Journalism, Delhi); Rajdeep Dilip Sardesai (Journalism, Delhi); Vinod Dua (Journalism, Delhi); Prof. Amitabh Mattoo (Literature and Education, Jammu & Kashmir); Balasubramanian Sivanthi Adithan (Literature and Education, Tamil Nadu); Bholabhai Patel (Literature and Education, Gujarat); Dr. (Smt.) Bina Agarwal (Literature and Education, Delhi); Prof. (Dr.) K.S. Nisar Ahmed (Literature and Education, Karnataka); Dr. (Smt.) M. Leelavathy (Literature and Education, Kerala); Dr. Nirupam Bajpai (Literature and Education, USA); Dr. Srinivas Udgata (Literature and



Madhuri Dixit

Education Orissa); Prof. Sukhadeo Thakur (Literature and Education, Delhi); Sukanta Hazarika (Literature and Education, Assam); Dr. Vellayani Arjunan (Literature and Education, Kerala); Mohamud Yousuf Taing (Literature and Education, Jammu & Kashmir); Haji Kaleem Ullah Khan (Mango Plantation and Grafting, Uttar Pradesh); Dr. A. Jayanta Kurian (Medicine, Manipur); Prof. (Dr.) Arjunan Rajasekaran (Medicine, Tamil Nadu); Prof. (Dr.) C.U. Velmurugendran (Medicine, Tamil Nadu); Dr. Deep Sehgal (Medicine, Delhi); Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh K. Bhargava (Medicine, Delhi); Dr. Indu Bhushan Sinha (Medicine, Bihar); Dr. Keiki R. Mehta (Medicine, Maharashtra); Dr. (Smt.) Malvika Singh (Medicine, Delhi); Dr. Mohan Chandra Pant (Medicine, Uttar Pradesh); Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jain (Medicine, Uttar Pradesh); Dr. Raman Kapur (Medicine, Delhi); Dr. Randhir Sud (Medicine, Delhi); Dr. Shyam Narayan Arya (Medicine, Bihar); Prof. (Dr.) Surendra Singh Yadav (Medicine, Delhi); Dr. Tatyarao Pundlikar (Medicine, Maharashtra); Dr. Tony Fernandez (Medicine, Kerala); Dr. Colette Mathur (Public Affairs, Switzerland); Bhavarlal Hiralal Jain (Science and Engineering, Maharashtra); Dr. Joseph Hulse (Science and Engineering, Canada); Prof. Kasturi Lal Chopra (Science and Engineering, Delhi); Dr. Sant Singh Vermani (Science and Engineering, USA); Kailash Chandra Agrawal (Social Work, Rajasthan); Sister Karuna Mary Brahmachari (Social Work, Maharashtra); Dr. Kshama Metre (Social Work, Himachal Pradesh); Dr. Kutikuppala Surya Rao (Social Work, Andhra Pradesh); Madhuri

The Symphony of India

It was about Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the great Indian philosopher, that the French philosopher Rolland once said "I have brought to Europe, which does not realize it, this autumn, a new message for the soul, the symphony of India".

han Sabharwal (Social Work, Delhi); Dr. (Ms.) Sheela Barthakur (Social Work, Assam); V.R. Gowrishankar (Social Work, Karnataka); Vikramjit Singh Sahney (Social Work, Delhi); Yousaf Ali Musaliameveettil Abdul Kader (Social Work, UAE); Baichung Bhutia (Sports, Sikkim); Ms. Bula Chowdhury Chakraborty (Sports, West Bengal); Dr. Amit Mitra (Trade and Industry, Delhi).



Bula Chowdhury

Film

International

80th Oscar Awards: **Film:** *No Country for Old Men*; **Director:** Joel Coen and Ethan Coen (*No Country for Old Men*); **Actor:** Daniel Day-Lewis (*There will be Blood*); **Actress:** Marion Cotillard (*La Vie en Rose*); **Supporting Actor:** Javlen Bardem (*No Country for Old Men*); **Supporting Actress:** Tida Swinton (*Michael Clayton*); **Foreign Language Film:** *The Counterfeiters* (Austria); **Original Screenplay:** Diablo Cody (*Juno*); **Adapted Screenplay:** Joel Coen and Ethan Coen (*No Country for Old Men*); **Music (Song):** *Falling Slowly* (Once); **Music (Score):** *Atonement*, Dario Marianelli; **Documentary Short Subject:** *Freeheld*; **Sound Editing:** Karen Baker Landers and Per Hallberg (*The Bourne Ultimatum*); **Sound Mixing:** Scott Milan, David Parker and Kirk Francis (*The Bourne Ultimatum*); **Cinematography:** Robert Elswit (*There will be Blood*); **Animated Short Film:** *Peter and the Wolf*; **Short Film:** *Le Mozart des*

Pickpockets (*The Mozart of Pickpockets*); **Visual Effects:** *The Golden Compass*; **Documentary Feature:** *Taxi to the Dark Side*; **Film Editing:** Christopher Rouse (*The Bourne Ultimatum*); **Costume Design:** Alexandra Byrne (*Elizabeth: The Golden Age*).

61st Cannes Film Festival: Palme d'Or (Golden Palm): *Entre Les Murs*, Laurent Cantet (France); **Grand Prize:** *Gomorra*, Matteo Garrone (Italy); **Jury Prize:** *Il Divo*, Paolo Sorrentino (Italy); **Special 61st Anniversary Prizes:** Catherine Deneuve (France) and Clint Eastwood (United States); **Director:** , Nuri Bilge Ceylan, *Three Monkeys* (Turkey); **Actor:** Benicio Del Toro, *Che* (United States); **Actress:** Sandra Corveloni, *Linha de Passe* (Brazil); **Screenplay:** Lean Pierre and Luc Dardenne, *Lorna's Silence* (Belgium); **Golden Camera (first-time director):** Steve McQueen, *Hunger* (Britain); **Short Film:** Marian Crisan, *Megatron* (Romania.)

National

54th National Film Awards: Feature Film: *Pulijanmam* (Malayalam); **Director:** Madhur Bhandarkar, *Traffic Signal* (Hindi); **Actor:** Soumitra Chatterjee, *Podokkhep* (Bengali); **Actress:** Priyamani, *Paruthi Veeran* (Tamil); **Supporting Actor:** Dilip Prabhavalkar, *Lago Raho Munnabhai* and *Shevri* (Marathi); **Supporting Actress:** Konkona Sensharma, *Omkara* (Hindi); **Child Artist:** Divya Chahadkar, *Antarnad* (Konkani); **Male Playback Singer:** Gurudas Mann, *Warisshah-Ishq Da Wari* (Punjabi); **Female Playback Singer:** Aarti Anklekar Tikekar, *Antarnad* (Konkani); **Cinematography:** Cameraman

Magsaysay Awards

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Madhurya (Art, Maharashtra); Madhuri Dixit (Art, Maharashtra); Manjula Prasad Mohanty (Art, Jharkhand); Manoj Shyamalan (Art, USA); Ms. Meenakshi Chitharanjan (Art, Tamil Nadu); Moozhikkulam



Madhuri Dixit

Chokkuttan Chakyar (Art, Kerala); P.K. Marayanan Nambiar (Art, Kerala); Pratap Kumar (Art, UK); Smt. Sabitri Heisnam (Art, Manipur); Ms. Sentila T. Yanger (Art, Nagaland); Dr. Sirkazhi G. Sivachidambaram (Art, Tamil Nadu); Tom Alter (Art, Maharashtra); Prof. Yella Venkateswara Rao (Art, Andhra Pradesh); Ms. Barkha Mittal (Journalism, Delhi); Rajdeep Dilip Sardesai (Journalism, Delhi); Vinod Dua (Journalism, Delhi); Prof. Amitabh Mattoo (Literature and Education, Jammu & Kashmir); Balasubramanian Sivanthi Adithan (Literature and Education, Tamil Nadu); Chholaabhai Patel (Literature and Education, Gujarat); Dr. (Smt.) Bina Agarwal, (Literature and Education, Delhi); Prof. (Dr.) K.S. Nisar Ahmed (Literature and Education, Karnataka); Dr. (Smt.) M. Leelavathy (Literature and Education, Kerala); Dr. Nirupam Bajpai (Literature and Education, USA); Dr. Srinivas Udgata (Literature and

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The Symphony of India

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formance: Justin Timberlake (*What Goes Around.... Comes Around*); **Pop Vocal Album:** *Back to Black* (Amy Winehouse); **Solo Rock Vocal Performance:** Bruce Springsteen (*Radio Nowhere*); **Rock Album:** *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace* (Foo Fighters); **Hard Rock Performance:** Foo Fighters (*The Pretender*); **Female Rhythm & Blues Vocal Performance:** Alida Keys (*No One*); **Male Rhythm & Blues Vocal Performance:** Prince (*Future Baby Mama*); **Rhythm & Blues Album:** *Funk This* (Chaka Khan); **Rap Album:** *Graduation* (Kanye West); **Female Country Vocal performance:** Carrie Underwood (*Before He Cheats*); **Male Country Vocal performance:** Keith Urban (*Stupid Boy*).

Ordre Des Arts Et Des Letters (France) - Navdita Das.

Artes Mundi Prize (The Highest International Art Prize in UK): N.S. Harsha.

National

Lifetime Achievement Award (Madras Music Academy): Lalgudi G. Jayaraman.

Peace & Humanism

International

International Children's Peace Prize, 2007: Thandiwe Chama, a 16-year old girl from Zambia. 1,00,000 Euro.

National

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration: Prof. Ram Puriyani and Dr. Juzar Salehbhai Bandukwalla.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2007: Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation.

K. Subrahmanyam Award for Excellence in Strategic Studies: Ms. Sudha Mahalingam

Media

National

IPL-India Award for Excellence in Journalism: Vinod Mehta, Editor, 'Outlook'.

Prem Bhatia Award, 2008: For political reporting, Nirupama Subramanian, *The Hindu*; reporting on environment, Keya Acharya.

Miscellaneous

International

MO Ibrahim Leadership Prize: Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique. \$5m.

Miss World 2007: Zhang Zilin, 23, of China, in Sanya.

Global Diversity Award 2008 (Britain): Shilpa Shetty and Lewis Hamilton.



Zhang Zilin

Socrates International Award (European Business Assembly): M.N. Bandopadhyay, director of National Institute of Technology.

Officer of the Legion of Honour (France): N.R. Narayanamurthy

Person of the Year (India Abroad newspaper): Mira Nair. **India Abroad Lifetime Achievement Award:** Jagdish Bhagwati and

Women Presidents of INC

Dr. Annie Besant became the first woman-President in 1917. Sarojini Naidu was the first Indian woman to hold the position (Kanpur, 1924). Indira Gandhi was President (1959-1978, 1982). Sonia Gandhi took over in 1998.

Goutam Ghose, *Yatra* (Hindi); **Screenplay:** *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* (Hindi); **Editor:** Raja Mohammed, *Paruthi* (Tamil); **Art Director:** Rasheed Rameez, *Waris Shah-Ishq Da* (Punjabi); **Cos-**



Goutam Ghosh

ume Designer: Manjeet Maan, *Waris Shah-Ishq Da Waris* (Punjabi); **Makeup Artist:** Anil Moti Ram Palande, *Traffic Signal*; **Music Director:** Ashok Patki, *Antarnad* (Konkani); **Lyrics:** Swanand Kirkire, *Lage Raho Munnabhai*; **Choreographers:** Madhu Samudra & Sajeev Samudra, *Ratri Mazha* (Malayalam); **ndira Gandhi Award for the Best Film of a Director:** *Eakantham* (Malayalam) and *Kabul Express* (Hindi); **Best Popular Film Providing wholesome entertainment:** *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* (Hindi); **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration:** *Kallarji Huvagi* (Kannada); **Film on Family Welfare:** *Karutha Pakshikal* (Malayalam) and *Faltu* (Bengali)

Phalke Award, 2006: Tapan Sinha
Aravindan Puraskaram: Marathi film-maker Mangesh Hadawala for his maiden film *Tingya*

Science & Technology

International

Raymond Chandler Prize (for Scientific / Technological Achievements in Environment, Dubai): V. Ramanathan.

National Award for Ocean Science & Technology: Dr. Harsh K. Gupta.

National Award for Atmospheric Sciences: Prof. Sulochana Gadgil.

Science Communications Award (Indian Nuclear Society), 2007: Dr. K.S. Parthasarathy, Rs. 50,000.

Literature

International

Duff Cooper Prize for History: William Dalrymple, author of *The Last Mughal*.
Diagram Prize (Britain) for the odd-est book title: Greek Rural Postmen and Their Cancellation Numbers.

National

Vachaspati Puraskar, 2007 (K K Birla Foundation): Swami Rambhadracharya

for 'Sribhargavagrahaviyam', Rs.1,00,00.



Sugathakumari

Children's Literature: Lifetime Contribution Award (Kerala Government):
- Poet Sugathakumari.
Rs. 50,000.

Music & Arts

International

50th Annual Grammy Awards: Album of the Year: *River : The Joni Letters* by Herbie Hancock; **Record of the Year:**

Rehab by Amy Winehouse; **Song of the Year:** *Rehab* by Amy Winehouse; **New Artist:** Amy Winehouse; **Female Pop Vocal Performance:** Amy Winehouse (*Rehab*); **Male Pop Vocal Per-**



Amy Winehouse

Indians in Pre-WWI North America

The Indian population in Canada was only 5000 in 1908. It declined to 700 in 1918. The Indians in the US were 2193 in 1910 and 386 in 1915. PL483 of 1946 allowed naturalization of just 100 Indians a year.

2008: N. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, Rs.3,00,000.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: M.S. Dhoni.

Asom Ratna: Bhupen Hazarika



Bhupen Hazarika

Sabin Award for Amphibian Conservation (IUCN): Dr. S.D. Biju. \$25,000

Premium Imperiale (Japan) : Zubin Mehta (India), Richard Hamilton (UK), Ilya and Emilia Kabakov (Russia), Peter Zumthor (Switzerland) and Tojuro Sakata (Japan) \$143,000 each.

National Film Awards

Best Feature Film: Gold Medal / Swarna Kamal

Year	Name of the Film	Language	Director
1953	Shyamchi Aai	Marathi	P.K. Atre
1954	Mirza Ghalib	Hindi	Sohrab Modi
1955	Pather Panchali	Bengali	Satyajit Ray
1956	Kabuliwala	Bengali	Tapan Sinha
1957	Do Ankhen Barah Haath	Hindi	V. Shantharam
1958	Sagar Sangame	Bengali	Debaki Kumar Bose
1959	Apur Sansar	Bengali	Satyajit Ray
1960	Anuradha	Hindi	Hrishikesh Mukherji
1961	Bhagini Nivedita	Bengali	Bejoy Bose
1962	Dada Thakur	Bengali	Sudhir Mukherji
1963	Shehar Aur Sapna	Hindi	K.A. Abbas
1964	Charulata	Bengali	Satyajit Ray
1965	Chemmeen	Malayalam	Ramu Kariat
1966	Teesri Kasam	Hindi	Basu Bhattacharya
1967	Hatey Bazarey	Bengali	Tapan Sinha
1968	Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne	Bengali	Satyajit Ray
1969	Bhuvan Shome	Hindi	Mrinal Sen
1970	Samskara	Kannada	Pattabhi Rama Reddy
1971	Seemabaddha	Bengali	Satyajit Ray
1972	Swayamvaram	Malayalam	Adoor Gopalakrishnan
1973	Nirmalyam	Malayalam	M.T.Vasudevan Nair
1974	Chorus	Bengali	Mrinal Sen
1975	Chomana Dudi	Kannada	B.V. Karanth
1976	Mrigaya	Hindi	Mrinal Sen
1977	Ghatashraddha	Kannada	Girish Kasaravalli
1978	No Award	-	
1979	Shodh	Hindi	Biplab
1980	Akaler Sandhane	Bengali	Shau

wife Padma Desai professors at Columbia Varsity.

Abel Prize for Maths (Norway): John Griggs Thompson (USA) and Jacques Tits (Belgium). \$ 1.2 m.

Pritzker Architecture Prix 2008: (Hyatt Foundation) Jean Nouvel. \$ 1,00,000.

Miss India 2008: World - Parvathy Omanakuttan; **Universe** - Simran Kaur Mundi; **Earth** - Harishta Saxena (who surrendered the title after a controversy, whereupon Tanvi Vyas became the new Miss India Earth).

International Competition on Global Warming, Berlin: Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik wins the first prize.

Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights: - Binayak Sen.

Kyoto Prize (Inamori Foundation): Prof. Richard Karp, Californian computer scientist, Charles Taylor (Canada) and Anthony Pawson (Canada) \$460,000.

Miss Universe 2008: Dayana Mendoza of Venezuela.

Ramon Magsaysay

Awards: Government

Service: Grace Padaca;

Public Service: Centre

for Agriculture & Rural

Development Mutually

Reinforcing Institutions

(CARD -MRI)-Philip-

pines, Therdchai Jivacate;

Community

Leadership: Prakash Amte and Manda-

kini Amte; **Peace and International**

Understanding: Ahmad Syafii Maarif;

Journalism, Literature and Creative

Communication: Akio Ishii; **Emergent**



Dayana Mendoza

Leadership: Ananda Galappatti.

National

Businessman of the Year 2007 (Forbes Asia): K.V. Kamath, CEO of ICICI Bank.

Bangalore Nano National Award: Prof. C.N.R. Rao.

Bharatvanshi Gaurav (Pride of India) Award: Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO.

Medical Research Award (Ranbaxy Foundation): Ashok Venkataraman, cancer scientist at Cambridge Varsity.

Karshkashree Award (Maiyala Manorama): C.M. Muhammed and Shakila Muhammad. Rs.2,00,000.

Cyrial Baselious Catholicos Award: Medha Patkar. Rs.1,00,000.

Mother Teresa Award (2006) for Community Development Work: (Loyola Institute of Business Administration) NTPC

Lifetime Achievement Award: Bhupen Hazarika, Assamese singer.

Person of the Year (India Abroad newspaper): Mira Nair.

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, 2008: Yogendra Singh Yadav, psephologist. Rs.2,00,000.

Indira Gandhi Praryavaran Puraskar: Kamal Singh, VC of Sant Gadge Baba Amarawati University of Maharashtra, Amrita Patel (National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation of Gujarat), Jagadish Babla (Uttaranchal).

AAAI Lifetime Achievement Award, 2008: Ranjan Kapur.

Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award,

Pulitzer for Jhumpa Lahiri

Jhumpa Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2000 for her collection of nine short stories entitled *Interpreter of Maladies*.

1984	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Mukhamukham	Malayalam
1985	Shyam Benegal	Trikal	Hindi
1986	G. Aravindan	Oridathu	Malayalam
1987	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Anantharam	Malayalam
1988	Shaji N. Karun	Piravi	Malayalam
1989	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Mathilukal	Malayalam
1990	Tapan Sinha	Ek Doctor Ki Maut	Bengali
1991	Satyajit Ray	Agantuk	Bengali
1992	Goutam Ghose	Padma Nadir Majhi	Bengali
1993	T.V. Chandran	Ponthanmada	Malayalam
1994	Jahnu Barua	Hkhagoroloi 8ahu Door	Assamese
1995	Saeed Akhtar Mirza	Naseem	Hindi
1996	Agathyan	Kathalkottai	Tamil
1997	Jayaraj	Kaliyattam	Malayalam
1998	Rajivnath	Janani	Malayalam
1999	Buddhadeb Das Gupta	Uttara	Bengali
2000	Rituparno Ghosh	Utsab	Bengali
2001	B. Lenin	Ooruku Nooruper	Tamil
2002	Aparna Sen	Mr & Mrs. Iyer	English
2003	Goutam Ghose	Abar Aranye	Bengali
2004	Buddhadeb Das Gupta	Swapner Din	Bengali
2005	Rahul Dholakia	Parzania	English
2006	Madhur Bhandarkar	Traffic Signal	Hindi

Best Actor

Year	Actor	Film	Language
1967	Uttam Kumar	Antony Firingee /Chiriakhana	Bengali
1968	Ashok Kumar	Aashirwad	Hindi
1969	Utpal Dutt	8huvan Shome	Hindi
1970	Sanjeev Kumar	Dastak	Hindi
1971	M.G. Ramachandran	Rikshawkaran	Tamil
1972	Sanjeev Kumar	Koshish	Hindi
1973	P.J. Antony	Nirmalyam	Malayalam
1974	Sadhu Mehr	Ankur	Hindi
1975	M.V. Vasudeva Rao	Chomana Dudi	Kannada
1976	Mithun Chakraborty	Mrigaya	Hindi
1977	Gopi	Kodiyettam	Malayalam
1978	Arun Mukherjee	Parashuram	Bengali
1979	Naseeruddin Shah	Sparsh	Hindi
1980	Balan K. Nair	Oppol	Malayalam
1981	Om Puri	Aarohan	Hindi
1982	Kamalahasan	Moonnam Pirai	Tamil
1983	Om Puri	Arth Sathya	Hindi
1984	Naseeruddin Shah	Paar	Hindi
1985	Shashi Kapoor	New Delhi Times	Hindi
1986	Charuhasan	Tabarana Kathe	Kannada

1981	Dakhal	Bengali	Gautam Ghose
1982	Chokh	Bengali	Utpalendu Chakraborty
1983	Adi Sankaracharya	Sanskrit	G.V. Iyer
1984	Damul	Hindi	Prakash Jha
1985	Chidambaram	Malayalam	G. Aravindan
1986	Tabarana Kathe	Kannada	Girish Kasaravalli
1987	Halodhia Choraye Baodhan Khai	Assamese	Jahnu Barua
1988	Piravi	Malayalam	Shaji N. Karun
1989	Bagh Bahadur	Hindi	Buddhadeb Das Gupta
1990	Marupakkam	Tamil	K.S. Sethumadhavan
1991	Agantuk	Bengali	Satyajit Ray
1992	Bhagavad Gita	Sanskrit	G.V. Iyer
1993	Charachar	Bengali	Buddhadeb Das Gupta
1994	Unishe April	Bengali	Rituparno Ghosh
1995	Kathapurushan	Malayalam	Adoor Gopalakrishnan
1996	Lal Darja	Bengali	Buddhadeb Das Gupta
1997	Thai Saheb	Kannada	Girish Kasaravalli
1998	Samar	Hindi	Shyam Benegal
1999	Vanaprastham	Malayalam	Shaji N. Karun
2000	Santham	Malayalam	Jayaraj
2001	Dweepa	Kannada	Girish Kasaravalli
2002	Mondo Meyer Upakhyam	Bengali	Buddhadeb Das Gupta
2003	Shwaas	Marathi	Sandeep Sawant
2004	Page 3	Hindi	Madhur Bhandar Kar
2005	Kal Purush	Bengali	Buddhadeb Dasgupta
2006	Pulijanmam	Malayalam	Priyanandanan

Best Director - Gold Medal

Year	Director	Film	Language
1967	Satyajit Ray	Chiriakhana	Bengali
1968	Satyajit Ray	Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne	Bengali
1969	Mrinal Sen	Bhuvan Shome	Hindi
1970	Satyajit Ray	Pratidwandi	Bengali
1971	Girish Karnad & B.V. Karanth	Vamsa Vriksha	Kannada
1972	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Swayamvaram	Malayalam
1973	Mani Kaul	Duvidha	Hindi
1974	Satyajit Ray	Sonar Kella	Bengali
1975	Satyajit Ray	Jana Aranya	Bengali
1976	P. Lankesh	Pallavi	Kannada
1977	G. Aravindan	Kanchana Sita	Malayalam
1978	G. Aravindan	Thamp	Malayalam
1979	Mrinal Sen	Ek Din Pratidin	Bengali
1980	Mrinal Sen	Akaler Sandhane	Bengali
1981	Aparna Sen	36-Chowringhee Lane	English
1982	Utpalendu Chakraborty	Chokh	Bengali
1983	Mrinal Sen	Khandhar	Hindi

1987	Archana	Veedu	Tamil
1988	Archana	Dasi	Telugu
1989	Sreelekha Mukherji	Parasuram Kuthar	Bengali
1990	Vijaya Shanthi	Karthavyam	Telugu
1991	Moloya Goswami	Firingoti	Assamese
1992	Dimple Kapadia	Rudaali	Hindi
1993	Shobhana	Manichithrathazhu	Malayalam
1994	Debasree Roy	Unishe April	Bengali
1995	Seema Biswas	Bandit Queen	Hindi
1996	Tabu	Maachis	Hindi
1997	1. Indrani Halder	Dahan	Bengali
	2. Rituparna Sengupta	Dahan	Bengali
1998	Shabana Azmi	Godmother	Hindi
1999	Kiran Kher	Bariwali	Bengali
2000	Raveena Tandon	Daman	Hindi
2001	Shobhana	Mitr- My Friend	English
2001	Tabu	Chandni Bar	Hindi
2002	Konkona Sen Sharma	Mr & Mrs. Iyer	English
2003	Meera Jasmine	Padam Onnu Oru Vilapam	Malayalam
2004	Thaara	Hasina	Kannada
2005	Sarika	Parzanias	English
2006	Priyamani	Paruthi Veeran	Tamil

Beauty Queens

Miss Universe

Name	Year	Country
Armi Kuusela	1952	Finland
Christiane Martel	1953	France
Miriam Stevenson	1954	USA
Hellevi Rombin	1955	Sweden
Carol Morris	1956	USA
Gladys Zender	1957	Peru
Luz Marina Zuluaga	1958	Columbia
Akiko Kojima	1959	Japan
Linda Bement	1960	USA
Marlene Schmidt	1961	Germany
Norma Nolan	1962	Argentina
Idca Maria Vargas	1963	Brazil
Corinna Tsopei	1964	
Apasra Hongsakula	1965	

1987	Kamalahasan	Nayakan	Tamil
1988	Premji	Piravi	Malayalam
1989	Mammooty	Mathilukal / Oru Vadakkan Ceera Gatha	Malayalam
1990	Amitabh Bachchan	Agnipath	Hindi
1991	Mohanlal	Bharatham	Malayalam
1992	Mithun Chakraborty	Tahader Katha	Bengali
1993	Mammooty	Vidheyan/ Ponthanmada	Malayalam
1994	Nana Patekar	Krantiveer	Hindi
1995	Rajit Kapur	The Making of the Mahatma	English
1996	Kamalahasan	Indian / Ayai Shanmukhi	Tamil
1997	1. Suresh Gopi 2. Balachandra Menon	Kaliyattam Samantharangal	Malayalam Malayalam
1998	1. Mammooty 2. Ajay Devgan	Dr. Ambedkar Zakhm	English Hindi
1999	Mohanlal	Vanaprastham	Malayalam
2000	Anil Kapoor	Pukar	Hindi
2001	Murali	Neythukaran	Malayalam
2002	Ajay Devgan	Legend of Bhagat Singh	Hindi
2003	Vikram	Pithamagan	Tamil
2004	Saif Ali Khan	Hum Tum	Hindi
2005	Amitabh Bachchan	Black	Hindi
2006	Soumitra Chatterjee	Podokkhep	Bengali

Best Actress

Year	Actress	Film	Language
1967	Nargis Dutt	Raat aur Din	Hindi
1967	T. Sharada	Thulabharam	Malayalam
1969	Madhavi Mukherjee	Dibratir Kabya	Bengali
1970	Rehana Sultan	Dastak	Hindi
1971	Waheeda Rehman	Reshma aur Shera	Hindi
1972	T. Sharada	Swayamvaram	Malayalam
1973	Nandini Bhaktavalsala	Kaadu	Kannada
1974	Shabana Azmi	Ankur	Hindi
1975	Sharmila Tagore	Mausam	Hindi
1976	Lakshmi	Sila Nerangalil Sila Manitharkal	Tamil
1977	Smita Patil	Bhumika	Hindi
1978	T. Sharada	Nimanjanam	Telugu
1979	Shobha	Pasi	Tamil
1980	Smita Patil	Chakra	Hindi
1981	Rekha	Umaro Jaan	Hindi
1982	Shabana Azmi	Arth	Hindi
1983	Shabana Azmi	Khandhar	Hindi
1984	Shabana Azmi	Paar	Hindi
1985	Suhasini	Sindhu Bhairavi	Tamil
1986	Monisha	Nakhakshathangal	Malayalam

Margareta Arvindsson	1966	Sweden
Sylvia Hitchcock	1967	USA
Martha Vasconcellos	1968	Brazil
Gloria Diaz	1969	Philippines
Marisol Malaret	1970	Puerto Rico
Georgia Risk	1971	Lebanon
Kerry Anne Wells	1972	Australia
Margarita Moran	1973	Philippines
Amparo Munoz	1974	Spain
Anne Marie Puhtamo	1975	Finland
Rina Mcssinger	1976	Israel
Janelle Commissiong	1977	Trinidad & Tobago
Margaret Gardiner	1978	South Africa
Maritza Sayalero	1979	Venezuela
Shawn Weatherly	1980	USA
Irene Sacz	1981	Venezuela
Karen Baldwin	1982	Canada
Lorraine Downes	1983	New Zealand
Yvonne Ryding	1984	Sweden
Deborah Carthy-Dcu	1985	Puerto Rico
Barbara Palacios Teyde	1986	Venezuela
Cecilia Bolocco	1987	Chile
Pomtip Nakhirunkanok	1988	Thailand
Angela Visser	1989	Holland
Mona Grudt	1990	Norway
Lupita Jones	1991	Mexico
Michelle McLean	1992	Namibia
Dayanara Torres	1993	Puerto Rico
Sushmita Sen	1994	India
Chelsi Smith	1995	USA
Alicia Machado	1996	Venezuela
Brook Lee	1997	USA
Wendy Fitzwilliam	1998	Trinidad & Tobago
Mpule Kwelagobe	1999	Botswana
Lara Dutta	2000	India
Denise M. Quinones	2001	Puerto Rico
Oxana Fedrova	2002	Russia
Justine Pasek	2002	Panama
Amelia Vega Polanco	2003	Dominican Republic
Jennifer Hawkins	2004	Australia
Natalie Glebova	2005	Canada
Zuleyka Rivera	2006	Puerto Rico
Riyo Mori	2007	Japan
Dayana Mendoza	2008	Venezuela

a hole-in-one, rare on the golf course, in a club in Florida in Jan., 08.

The Fastest to Cycle around the World: Mark Beaumont, 25, completed a cycling trip around the world in 195 days and 6 hours, beating the previous record of 276 days.

Biggest Tea Party: 32,681 people had tea together at Indore at a 'Dainik Bhaskar' jubilee event.

7,000 Weddings: About 7,000 couples got married on Mar.9, 2008 in A.P. in TTD-sponsored 'Kalyanamastu', free mass marriages.

World's Costliest House: Elena Franchuk, Ukrainian business magnate, reportedly bought a home in London with a record £80 m. price tag, in Feb.08. It broke the record held by Lakshmi Mittal whose Kensington Palace Gardens home cost him £40m.

Damages: Paramjit Singh, an Indian-American in Washington, was awarded \$40.1 as compensation after a malfunctioning machine burnt his heart, forcing him to go for a transplant - one of the largest personal injury verdicts.

A Rare Edition: A rare first edition of JRR Tolkien's novel 'The Hobbit' sold at an Indian auction for £60,000.

The Highest Price for a Painting: M.F. Hussain's painting 'Battle of Ganga and Yamuna: Mahabharata 12' fetched \$1.6 m. (Rs.6.4 cr.) at a Christies auction.

Tiniest Transistor: World's smallest transistor measuring a little bigger than a molecule was created by scientists from Manchester University in April, 08.

Hey School Girl

'Hey School Girl' is the first ever recorded song that became a major hit in the US in 1957.

World's Longest Sea Bridge: 36-km bridge across Hangzhou Bay near Shanghai was inaugurated in May, 2008. It is designed to last 100 years. Cost: 11.8 b. Yuan (1.69 b.). It is a short cut between Zhejiang and Shanghai.

Breath-holding: Magician David Blaine set a new world record in Apr.08, for underwater breath holding: 17 minutes, 4 sec.

Marathon Singing: Vivaag Wankhade, sang for 120 hours at a stretch, rendering a total of 1652 Hindi film songs.

\$6.2 m. Diamond: The largest diamond auctioned in Asia, a 101.27 carat gem the size of a pingpong ball, fetched \$6.2 m. at Christie's in Hong Kong.

The Oldest to get a Ph.D : Michael Cobb, 91, a war veteran evacuated in the last boat out of Dunkirk, was awarded a Ph.D. by Cambridge 'Varsity' in July '08.

Record for Book Signings: Salman Rushdie claimed to have set a record by signing 1000 books in 57 minutes during a promotion tour in the US in July 2008.

The Longest 'Padayatra' : Mount Abu - based Brahma Kumaris youth wing covered more than 30,000 km. from Aug. 20, 2006 to Oct. 29, in the longest march recorded.

Blaine Upside Down: Magician David Blaine completed 60-hour upside down ordeal in New York on Sept. 25, 2008.

The White Tiger

Booker Prize winning Arvind Adiga novel 'The White Tiger', is about the new India. It takes the form of seven letters addressed by Balram to the on the eve of a state visit. The mordant sketches of millionaires reveal the reality of contemporary Indian society.

ina Marie Tolleson	1990	United States
linibeth Beatriz Leal Jiminez	1991	Venezuela
ulia Alexandrovna Kourotschkina	1992	Russia
isa Hanna	1993	Jamaica
ishwarya Rai	1994	India
acqueline Maria Aguilera Marcano	1995	Venezuela
ene Skiva	1996	Greece
Diana Hayden	1997	India
inor Abargil	1998	Israel
ukta Mookhey	1999	India
Priyanka Chopra	2000	India
Agbani Darego	2001	Nigeria
Azra Akin	2002	Turkey
Rosanna Davison	2003	Ireland
Maria Julia Mantill Garcia	2004	Peru
Jnnur Bima Vilhjalmsdottir Sanya	2005	Iceland
Tatana Kucharova	2006	Czech Republic
Zhang Zilin	2007	China

Crowned after Helen Mogan of the United Kingdom resigned.

Crowned after Gabriella Brum of West Germany resigned.

Records

Marathon Surgery: Two-year old akshmi Tatma, an eight limbed girl om Bihar, underwent 27-hour surgery a Bangalore to separate her from her arasitic twin.

102-year-old bridegroom: A Lithuanian, Stanislovas Gridas, 102, married 16-year-old Brone Mikutiene, in Kaunas, in ov.'07.

Chinese Painting at \$10.7m : A ju Ying painting (16th c.) 'Red Cliff andscroll' was sold for a world record

price of 79.52 m. yuan in Nov.'07.

French 'mathlete: Alexis Lemaire claims a world record after working out in his head the 13th root of a random 200-digit number in 72.4 seconds.

Most Expensive Flat: In Nov. '07, a 4-bedroom flat at NCPA Apartments at Nariman Point end of Marine Drive in Mumbai was sold for Rs. 34 cr. i.e. at Rs. 97,842 per sq.feet.

A hole-in-one at 92: Leo Fiyalko, visually challenged and 9 years old, scored

Another First Novel

Aravind Adiga, winner of the Man Booker Prize, is the third first-time novelist to win the award, after Arundhati Roy in 1997 and DBC Pierre in 2003. At 33, he is the second youngest after Ben Okri, 32.

*Renowned film maker Mrinal Sen was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the OSIAN film festival 2008 held at New Delhi.

*Noted director Ketan Mehta's Rang Rasiya - colours of passion has been screened at the Cannes film festival, 2008, and Ketan was honoured with the award of officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Minister for Culture and Communication Mr. Christine Albanel.

*Popular multilingual actress Nandita Das' directorial debut Firaag will be shot in Hyderabad, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The story is set in the aftermath of the 2002 communal violence in Gujarat. Ravi K. Chandran is the cinematographer and editing will be done by A. Sreekar Prasad. Percept Picture Co. plans to release this film in Hindi, Gu-

jarathi and Urdu.

*Chetan Anand - *The Poetics of Film*

The book on the life of Chetan Anand is written by his wife Uma and son Ketan.

*Noted film journalist Saibal Chatterjee has written a book on veteran lyricist cum director Gulzar, Echoes and Eloquences The Life and Cinema of GULZAR.

**Bollywood Today* by Kaveree Bamzai is a book containing the profiles of some artists and film makers.

*Two films Sudhir Mishra's Khoya Khoya, Chand Rajkumar Santhosh's Halla Bol are film inspired movies. Khoya Khoya Chand is a flashback journey through the old film studios and vintage cameras of 50's, while Halla Bol has Hindi film, industry as its backdrop too,

Titbits

Sing is King, directed by Anees Bazmee, is one of the super hits released during the second half of the year 2008. Inspired by Frank Capra's *A Pocketful of Miracles*, it was a hilarious comedy film with Akshay Kumar as hero whose performance is outstanding. The film was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

Mumbai Meri Jaan directed by Nishikant Kamat is another remarkable film which deals with the aftereffects of the 2006 train blasts in Mumbai. Kamat approaches the trauma through four protagonists - Paresh Rawal, who is a cop on the verge of retirement, KayKay Menon is an out of business young man, with a peculiar bias against muslims. Madhavan is a software professional. Irfan is a South Indian tea vendor and Soha Ali Khan is the star reporter of a leading TV channel. Di-

rectly or indirectly each of them feels the heat of the blasts. The film was hailed by moviegoers. Entertaining as well as educative, the film has created a deep impact.

Tahaan - A Boy With A Grenade directed by cinematographer cum director Santhosh Sivan is the story of eight year-old Tahaan who lives with his grandfather and mother Haba and sister Zoya in the serene meadows of Kashmir. They hope that some day Tahaan's father, who's been missing for over three years, will return. The death of his grandfather leads the local moneylender Lalaji and his manager Kuka to usurp the family's assets, including their pet donkey Birbal, as repayment of a pending loan. Life for Tahaan and his family takes a rough turn. The film is again one of the notable films of 2008.

Bollywood Cinema

The first half of the year 2008 saw only a few hits like *Jodha Akbar*, *Race* and *Jonnot*. Set in 16th century '*Jodha Akbar*' chronicles the unforgettable love story between the greatest Mughal emperor



Jodha Akbar

who ruled India Jalaluddin Mohammed Akbar and a fiery young Rajput princess, Jodha. This historical costume drama directed by Ashuthosh Gowariker is one of the most anticipated films of the decade. Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai play the leading roles. Opulent sets, breath-taking costumes and haunting music set this period drama apart.

Jonnot: The story is based on the match fixing in cricket which is a contemporary issue. Directed by Kunal Des-

mukh, overdosed on IPL matches, the film narrates a love story also. Grossed over Rs. 30/- crore.

Race: Directed by Abbas Mustan, the film is a perfect example of what today's youth like racy music, fast cars and sexy heroines.

Jodha Akbar and *Race* have grossed over Rs.50/- crore each.

However things are certainly expected to be better in the second half. The films like *Kismet Connection* (Aziz Mirza), *Singh is the King* (Anees Bazmee) and *Jaane Tu Ya Joane Na* (Abbas Tyrewala) are considered to be hits during the second half the year.

*Samkranti Creations, a Mumbai based organisation, has announced its plans to colorise *Pather Panchali*, veteran Satyajit Ray's first film. They have planned a project amounting to Rs. 1.2 crore with a team of 70 people for this programme.

*Santhosh Sivan's latest film in English *Before the Rains* has won the best film award and best cinematography award from the Houston International film festival. It is the first time that an Indian film is honoured at Houston.

*The Railway department has enhanced the daily fee to Rs. 1 lakh for shooting platforms and trains. Earlier the department used to charge Rs. 10,000 per day. The revenue generated from the shoots would be spent on improving the infrastructure of the Railways.

Where Das Kapital was Written

Karl Marx who arrived in London in 1849, moved to a house in Kentish Town, North London in 1856. That is where he wrote the basic material for *Das Kapital*, the first volume of which appeared in 1867.

Hockey Team. Shah Rukh Khan is the soul of the film. He completely immerses himself in the part of the hockey coach.

Chak De! India won the best film award at Australian Indian film festival. It was selected for the Can CUN International film festival.

According to a Cross Country poll conducted by a leading entertainment magazine for the choice of India's entry to the Oscars the film *Chak De! India*

came out with 74% votes. But the film federation of India selected *Ekalavya* directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra which got only 4% votes. Anyway, the Academy eliminated '*Ekalavya*' from the competition.

Aamir Khan's directorial debut *Taare Zameen Par* is a rehabilitation story of an eight year old dyslexic boy; can be considered as one of the brilliant films.

Prof Joseph Mathew

Musical Terms

Chant : A sacred song
Caprice : A short composition, free and unconventional in style
Minuet : A slow graceful dance in triple time
Monody : One part music
Band : Any group of players performing together
Choir : A group of singers
Lullaby : A cradle song
Virtuoso : A master of an instrument
Pitch : The quality of a tone which is governed by the number of vibrations.
Tempo : Musical time or speed. Adagio is slow tempo.
Tenor : Highest common adult male singing voice.
Treble : Boy's voice with the highest part in a piece of music
Soprano : Highest singing voice of women and girls and boys
Alto : The highest adult male or lowest

female singing voice
Baritone : Middle-range male voice, between tenor and bass.
Contralto : Lowest female singing voice
Prima donna : Main female singer in an opera
Allegro : Lively and fast
Allegretto : Short, lively piece of music, not so fast as allegro
Aria : Solo song, usually part of an opera
Baroque : Heavy, ornamental music of 17th - 18th centuries
Bass : Lowest male singing voice
Chord : Combination of two or more notes
Sonata : Musical composition for one instrument or two.
Concerto : Work for solo instrument or instruments, with orchestra
Crescendo : Gradually becoming louder
Diminuendo : Gradually becoming softer
Rhapsody : Romantic, lyrical work

Saraswat Samaj

Rabindranath Tagore and his brother Jyotirindranath Tagore were the founders of the literary academy Saraswat Samaj. It was the first in Bengal.

rating the dilemma of a super star right in a controversy. Ajay Devgan, Jaya Balan and Pankaj Kapur star in this.

Reliance Big Entertainment has financed a state of 69 feature films in 9 languages for production and distribution over the next two years.

Asha Bhosle was chosen for Padma Bhushan, the nation's second highest civilian award and actors Tom Alter & Adhuni Dixit have been awarded with Padma Shri in 2008.

Yes Madam, Sir The world premiere of *Yes Madam, Sir* a feature length documentary about the life of India's first woman IPS officer Kiran Bedi was held at the 33rd Toronto International Film Festival. It is part of the Festivals' 'Real Reel' programme. The film is written, cinematographed and directed by Australian film maker Megan Deoneman. Academy award winner Helen Mirren lends her voice as the narrator. Megan spent eight years on this project and the documentary highlights Bedi's professional achievements.

Hum Dono in Colour

Colorisation of old classics is catching on fast. First it was *Mughal-e-Azam* followed by *Naya Daur*.

Now Dev Anand's *Hum Dono* will soon be released in colour. It took almost four years for the colorisation of *Mughal-e-Azam* and for *Naya Daur* it took three to three and a half years. Goldstone Media Company Ltd. Completed '*Hum Dono*' just four months.

Shyam Benegal's latest film *Welcome Sajjanpur* has been invited for the London Film Festival 2008 that runs

from October 15.

Prateik Babbar Smita Patils' (late) and Raj Babbar's son made an unusual debut in a brief role in Abbas Tyrewala's *Jaane Tu..... Ya Jaane Na*.

Mumbai Mera Jaan, *A Wednesday* and *Amir* are three films that deserve special mention. They have the terrorist attacks as their theme.

Of over 200 hit film releases during 2007, half a dozen grossed over Rs. 50 crores each. It was also a rewarding box office year for experimental and small budget films. Among the top grossers Farah Khan's ***Om Shanti Om*** stands first. It collected more than Rs. 53 crore. The story revolves around the life and times of a struggling actor played by Shah Rukh Khan and his love for the silver screen tsarina played by Deepika Padukone.

Chak Del India directed by Shimit Amin is one of the meaningful films of the year. It is about the life of former



Chak Del India

hockey player Mir Ranjan Negi who faded out of the game as a failed goalkeeper only to return triumphant as the inspirational coach of the Indian Women

Director of Chomana Dudi

B.V. Karanth co-directed the first feature film *Vamsa Vriksha* with Girish Karnad, for which they received the Best Director award in 1971. His *Chomana Dudi* won the Swarna Kamal. He was also Director of National School of Drama.

Presidents of USA since 1953

Name & (party)1	Term	Age at inaug.	Age at Death
Dwight D. Eisenhower (R)	1953-1961	62	78
John F. Kennedy (D)*	1961-1963	43	46
Lyndon B. Johnson (D)	1963-1969	55	64
Richard M. Nixon (R)**	1969-1974	56	81
Gerald R. Ford (R)	1974-1977	61	93
Jimmy Carter (D)	1977-1981	52	-
Ronald Reagan (R)	1981-1989	69	93
George H.W. Bush (R)	1989-1993	64	-
William J. Clinton (D)	1993-2001	46	-
George W. Bush (R)	2001-	54	-

R-Republican; D-Democratic; *Assassinated in office; **Resigned Aug.9, 1974

Presidents of France

Name	Term		
Presidents		Valery Giscard d'Estaing	1974-81
Charles de Gaulle	1958-69	Francois Mitterrand	1981-95
Georges Pompidou	1969-74	Jacques Rene Chirac	1995-2007
		Nicolas Sarkozy	2007-

Presidents of People's Republic of China

Name	Term		
Presidents		Song Qingling	1976-78
Mao Zedong	1949-59	Ye Jianying	1978-83
Liu Shaoqi	1959-68	Li Xiannian	1983-88
Dong Biwu	1968-75	YangShangkun	1988-93
Zhu De	1975-76	Jiang Zemin	1993-2003
		Hu Jintao	2003 -

Chancellors of Federal Republic of Germany

1949-63	Konrad Adenauer	1974-82	Helmut Schmidt
1963-66	Ludwig Erhard	1982-98	Helmut Kohl
1966-69	Kurt Georg Kiesinger	1998-2005	Gerhard Schroder
1969-74	Willy Brandt	2005-	Ms. Angela Merkel

First Ten Women Rulers of the World

Name	Country	Year	Post
1. Suhbaataryn Yanjmaa	Mongolia	1953-54	Acting President
2. Sirimavo Bandaranaike	Sri Lanka	1960-65, 1970-77, 1994-2000	Prime Minister
3. Indira Gandhi	India	1966-77, 1980-84	Prime Minister
4. Hilda Gibbs-Bynoe	Grenada	1967-72	Governor
5. Golda Meir	Israel	1969-74	Prime Minister
6. Maria Isabel Peron	Argentina	1974-76	President
7. Elisabeth Domitien	Sen. African Rep.	1975-76	Prime Minister
8. Lucinda da Costa Gomez Matheeuws	Netherlands Antilles	1977	Prime Minister
9. Doris Louise Johnson	Bahamas	1979	Acting Governor General
10. Lydia Gueiler Tejada	Bolivia	1979-80	Acting President

Women Rulers since 2005

Yuliya Tymoshenko	Ukraine	2005	Prime Minister
Maria do Carme Silva	Sao Tome & Principe	2005	Prime Minister
Cynthia A Pratt	Bahamas	2005	Acting Prime Minister
Fausta Simona Morganti	San Marino	2005	Co Captain Regent
Angela Merkel	Germany	2005	Chancellor
Michaëlle Jean	Canada	2005	Governor General
Portia Simpson-Miller	Jamaica	2006	Prime Minister
Han Myung Sook	South Korea	2006	Prime Minister
Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf	Liberia	2006	President
Michelle Bachelet Jerya	Chile	2006	President
Emily Saïdy de Jongh-Elhage	Netherlands Antilles	2006	Prime Minister
Micheline Calmy-Rey	Switzerland	2007	President
Dalia Itzik	Israel	2007	Acting president
Pratibha Patil	India	2007	President
Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner	Argentina	2007	President
Louise Lake-Tack	Antigua & Barbuda	2007	Governor General
Zinaïdia Greceanii	Moldova	2008	Prime Minister
Michele Pierre-Louis	Haiti	2008	Prime Minister
Quentin Bryce	Australia	2008	Governor General

Hurricane Names

For every year, there is a pre-approved list of names for tropical storms and hurricanes. These lists are generated by the National Hurricane Center (since 1953). It is now maintained by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Since 1979, the names-list alternate between male and female. Hurricanes are named alphabetically from the list in chronological order. Thus the first tropical storm or hurricane of the year has a name that begins with "A" and the second is given the names that begin from

A to W, but exclude names that begin with a "Q" or "U". There are six lists that continue to rotate. The lists only change when there is a hurricane that is so devastating, the name is retired and another name replaces it.

Names can be reused every six years. Any country affected by a hurricane can request its name be retired for ten years. If a storm has been particularly destructive, the World Meteorological Organization can remove it from the list and replace it with a different name.

Hurricane Names, 2009

Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda

Some of the most destructive hurricanes in recent years include:

Katrina, which affected Los Angeles, etc. in 2005 and cost 1,500 deaths, *Au-*

drey which hit Los Angeles and Texas in 1957 killing over 400 people, *Camille* (1969), *Diane* (1955) and *Betsy* (1965).

Sobriquets

Places

Sobriquets

Primary Names

Bengal's Sorrow
City of the Golden Gate
City of the Golden Temple
City of Dreaming Spires
City of Seven Hills/Eternal City

River Damodar
San Francisco, USA
Amritsar
Oxford, UK
Rome

The Great Fire

Four-fifths of the City of London were destroyed in a fire from Sept. 2 to 5, in 1666. It started in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane. Among the important buildings razed to the ground was the medieval St. Paul's Cathedral.

Leaders of Russia

Name	Term		
USSR		Yuri Andropov	1982-84
		Konstantin Chernenko	1984-85
		Mikhail Gorbachev	1985-91
General Secretaries		Russian Federation	
Joseph Stalin	1922-53	Presidents	
Georgiy Malenkov	1953	Boris Yeltsin	1991-99
Nikita Khrushchev	1953-64	Vladimir Putin	1999-2008
Leonid Brezhnev	1964-82	Dmitry Medvedev	2008-

British Prime Ministers since 1940

Winston Churchill (Conservative).....	1940-1945
Clement R Attlee (Labour)	1945-1951
Winston Churchill (Conservative).....	1951-1955
Anthony Eden (Conservative).....	1955-1957
Harold Macmillan (Conservative).....	1957-1963
Alec Douglas-Home (Conservative).....	1963-1964
Harold Wilson (Labour).....	1964-1970
Edward Heath (Conservative).....	1970-1974
Harold Wilson (Labour).....	1974-1976
James Callaghan (Labour)	1976-1979
Margaret Thatcher (Conservative).....	1979-1990
John Major (Conservative)	1990-1997
Tony Blair (Labour)	1997-2007
Gordon Brown (Labour).....	2007 -

Foreign Born Rulers

Name	Country	Post	Born in
Carlos Menem	Argentina	President	Syria
Alberto Fujimori	Peru	President	Japan
Abdala Bucaram	Ecuador	President	Lebanon
Janet Jagan	Guyana	President	America
Adolf Hitler	Germany	Chancellor	Austria
Kenneth Kaunda	Zambia	President	Malawi
Hendrick Verwoerd	South Africa	Prime Minister	Holland
Adrene Poi Clarkson	Canada	Gov- General	Hong Kong

The Spice Island of the West	Grenada
Venice of the East	Alappuzha
Venice of the North	Stockholm, Sweden
White City	Belgrade
World's Breadbasket	Prairies of N. America
World's Loneliest Island	Tristan da Cunha

Persons

Sobriquet	Name
Adi Kavi	Valmeeki
Anna	C.N. Annadurai
Badshah Khan/Frontier Gandhi	Abdul Ghaffar Khan
Bard of Avon	William Shakespeare
Bard of Twickenham	Alexander Pope
Deenabandhu	C.F. Andrews
Deshbandhu	C.R. Das
Desert Fox	Gen. Erwin Rommel
Ike Dwight	David Eisenhower
Fuhrer	Adolf Hitler
Il Duce	Benito Mussolini
J.P., Loknayak	Jayaprakash Narayan
Kaviguru	Rabindranath Tagore
Lady with the Lamp	Florence Nightingale
Lokamanya	Bala Gangadhara Thilak
Mahamana	Madan Mohan Malaviya
Mahatma	Gandhiji
Maid of Orleans	Joan of Arc
Man of Blood and Iron	Bismarck
Netaji	Subhas Chandra Bose
Panditji	Jawaharlal Nehru
Qaid-e-Azam	Mohammed Ali Jinnah
Rajaji or 'CR'	C. Rajagopalachari
Saint of the Gutters	Mother Teresa
The Cincinnatus of the Americans	George Washington

A Link between West Asia and Africa

A bridge across the Mandab strait on The Red Sea is being planned by Tarek Bin Laden, Osama Bin Laden's half-brother. The 28.5 km. bridge, one of the longest in the world, would link Djibouti to Yemen, creating a man-made link between West Asia and Africa.

Cockpit of Europe	Belgium
Dark Continent	Africa
Emerald Island	Ireland
Empire City/City of Skyscrapers	New York, USA
Garden City	Bangalore
Gate of Tears	Bab-el-mandab
Gateway of India	Bombay
Gift of the Nile	Egypt
God's Own Country	Kerala
Herring Pond	Atlantic Ocean
Holy Land	Palestine
Hermit Kingdom/Land of Morning Calm	Korea
Island of Cloves	Zanzibar
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Key of the Mediterranean	Gibraltar
Land of Cakes	Scotland
Land of the Humming Bird	Trinidad
Land of the Kangaroo/Land of the Golden Fleece	Australia
Land of the Golden Pagoda	Myanmar (Burma)
Land of Lilies/Land of Maple/Lady of Snow	Canada
Land of the Midnight Sun	Norway
Land of the Rising Sun	Japan
Land of Thousand Lakes	Finland
Land of Thunderbolt	Bhutan
Land of the White Elephants	Thailand
Never Never Land	Prairies of N. Australia
Pink City	Jaipur
Playground of Europe	Switzerland
Queen of the Adriatic	Venice, Italy
Queen of the Arabian Sea	Kochi
Roof of the World	Pamirs
Sick Man of Europe	Turkey
Sorrow of China/Yellow River River	Hwang Ho
Spice Garden of India	Kerala
Sugar Bowl of the World	Cuba
The Sea of Mountains	British Columbia

Ilyushin of Jet Airliner

The man who designed the jet airliner Il- 62 was Sergei Ilyushin (1894-1977), the Soviet aircraft engineer. His first creation was Il-2 Stormovik dive bomber. Later he began designing commercial aircraft.

March 15	World Disabled Day; World Consumer Rights Day
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day (India)
March 21	World Forestry Day
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 22	World Day for Water
March 23	World Meteorological Day
March 24	World TB Day
April 3	World Autism Day
April 5	International Day for Mine Awareness; National Maritime Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 17	World Haemophilia Day
April 18	World Heritage Day
April 21	Secretaries' Day
April 21	National Civil Services Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day
May 1	Workers' Day (International Labour Day)
May 1 st Sunday	World Laughter Day
May 1 st Tuesday	World Asthma Day
May 3	Press Freedom Day
May, 2nd Sunday	Mother's Day
May 4	Coal Miners' Day
May 8	World Red Cross Day
May 9	World Thalassaemia Day
May 11	National Technology Day
May 12	World Hypertension Day; International Nurses Day
May 15	International Day of the Family
May 17	World Telecommunication Day
May 24	Commonwealth Day
May 25	World Thyroid Day
May 29	International Mount Everest Day (Designated by Nepal)
May 31	Anti-tobacco Day
June 1	World Milk Day (FAO)
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children, Victims of Aggression
June 5	World Environment Day
June, 3rd Sunday	Father's Day
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, in support of victims of Torture
June 14	World Blood Donor Day
July 1	Doctor's Day

International Migration

According to ILO, India is the third country sending the largest number of migrants.

They were born in India

The following celebrities were born in India.

Julie Christie: English Actress
Cliff Richard: British Vocalist
George Orwell : British Novelist
Leopold Amery: English Tory Politician
Lindsay Anderson: British Film Director
Paddy Ashdown: English Politician
Bruce Bairnsfather: British Cartoonist
Lord Beveridge: British Economist
Fenner Brockway: English Politician
Anna Carteret: British Actress
Colin Cowdrey: English Cricketer
Brian Elias: English Composer

Kenneth Kendall: British TV Presenter
Rudyard Kipling: English Writer
Spike Milligan: British Comedian
Vivien Leigh: British Actress
Merle Oberon: British Actress
Charles Chadwick Oman: English Historian
Kim Philby: British Spy (for Soviet Union)
Ronald Ross: British Physician
Pamela Salem: British Actress
Basli Spence: Scottish Architect
Angela Thorne: British Actress
Orde Wingate: British Soldier

Important Days

January 9	NRI Day
January 10	World Laughter Day
January 12	National Youth Day
January 15	Army Day
January 25	National Tourism Day
January 26	India's Republic Day, International Customs Day
January 30	Martyrs' Day; World Leprosy Eradication Day
February 2 nd Sunday	World Marriage Day
February 24	Central Excise Day
February 28	National Science Day
March 2 nd Thursday	World Kidney Day
March 2 nd Monday	Commonwealth Day
March 8	International Women's Day

Protein that is Industrial

What is casein? It is the major protein present in milk. It is easily digested and contains a good balance of essential amino acids. Casein is also used in industry, especially in the making of thermoplastics.

Human Rights Day; Intl. Children's Day of Broadcasting
Armed Forces Flag Day
Minorities Rights Day (India)
Kisan Divas (Farmer's Day)

Presidents of India

Justice Mohammed Hidayatullah	July-Aug., 1969 (Acting)
Varahagiri Venkata Giri	1969-1974
Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	1974-1977
B. D. Jatti	Feb.-July, 1977 (Acting)
Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	1977-1982
Giani Zail Singh	1982-1987
R. Venkataraman	1987-1992
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	1992-1997
K.R. Narayanan	1997-2002
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	2002-2007
Pratibha Patil	From July 25, 2007

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1952-1962
Dr. Zakir Husain	1962-1967
Varahagiri Venkata Giri	1967-1969
Gopal Swarup Pathak	1969-1974
B. D. Jatti	1974-1979
Mohammed Hidayatullah	1979-1984
R. Venkataraman	1984-1987
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	1987-1992
K. R. Narayanan	1992-1997
Krishan Kant	1997-2002

Prime Ministers

Jawaharlal Nehru	1947-1964
Gulzari Lal Nanda	May-June, 1964 (Acting)
Lal Bahadur Shastri	1964-1966
Gulzari Lal Nanda	11-24, Jan., 1966 (Acting)
Indira Gandhi	1966-1977
Morarji Desai	1977-1979
Charan Singh	1979-1980
Indira Gandhi	1980-1984
Rajiv Gandhi	1984-1989
Vishwanath Pratap Singh	1989-1990
Chandrasekhar	1990-1991
P.V. Narasimha Rao	1991-1996

Harilal J. Kania	1950-1951
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Philippines - 1762, Indonesia-1798, Mauritius - 1834, Uganda - 1834, Guyana- 1838,
Natal (S. Africa) - 1860, Malav - 1860 Jamaica - 1872

July 11	World Population Day
August 1st Sunday	International Friendship Day
August 6	Hiroshima Day
August 8	World Senior Citizen's Day
August 9	Quit India Day, Nagasaki Day
August 15	Indian Independence Day
August 18	Intl. Day of the World's Indigenous People
August 19	Photography Day
August 29	National Sports Day
Paumami Day of Shravana month	Sanskrit Day
September 2	Coconut Day
September 5	Teachers' Day
September 8	International Literacy Day (UNESCO)
September 15	Engineers' Day
September 16	World Ozone Day
September 21	Alzheimer's Day; Day for Peace & Non-violence (UN)
September 22	Rose Day (Welfare of cancer patients)
September 26	Day of the Deaf
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 1	International Day for the Elderly
October 2	Gandhi Jayanthi; International Day of Non-Violence
October 3	World Habitat Day
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day
October 8	Indian Air Force Day
October 9	World Post Office Day
October 10	National Post Day
October, 2nd Thursday	World Sight Day
October 13	UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
October 15	World White Cane Day (guiding the blind)
October 16	World Food Day
October 24	UN Day; World Development Information Day
October 30	World Thrift Day
November 9	Legal Services Day
November 14	Children's Day; Diabetes Day
November 17	National Epilepsy Day
November 19	Citizens' Day
November 20	Universal Children's Day (UN), Africa Industrialisation Day
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 3	World Day of the Handicapped
December 4	Navy Day

Remittances

According to World Bank statistics for 2006, in terms of remittances, India (9.61 p.c.), China (9.43) and Mexico (8.02) have the top three positions. They are followed by France (5.62), Philippines (5.14) and Spain (3.06).

2. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury : Women & Child Development.
3. Shri Subodh Kant Sahay : Food Processing Industries.
4. Shri Vilas Muttemwar : New and Renewable Energy .
5. Kumari Selja : Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
6. Shri Praful Patel : Civil Aviation.
7. Shri G.K.Vasan : Statistics & Programme Implementation.
8. Dr. M. S. Gill : Youth Affairs & Sports.

Ministers Of State

- 1 Shri E. Ahammed : External Affairs.
- 2 Shri B.K. Handique : Chemicals & Fertilizers and Mines..
- 3 Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi : Health & Family Welfare.
- 4 Dr. Shakeel Ahmad : Home Affairs
- 5 Shri Rao Inderjit Singh : Defence.
- 6 Shri Naranbhai Rathwa : Railways.
- 7 Shri K.H. Muniappa : Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.
- 8 Shri Kantilal Bhuria : Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- 9 Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal : Home Affairs.
- 10 Shri Prithviraj Chavan : Prime Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- 11 Shri Taslimuddin : Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- 12 Smt. Suryakanta Patil : Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs.
- 13 Shri Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi : Human Resource Development.
- 14 Shri R. Velu : Ministry of Railways.
- 15 Shri S.S. Palanimanickam : Finance.

- 16 Shri S. Regupathy : Environment and Forests.
- 17 Shri K. Venkatapathy: Law & Justice
- 18 Smt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan : Social Justice & Empowerment.
- 19 Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan : Textiles.
- 20 Smt Kanti Singh : Tourism and Culture
- 21 Shri Namo Narain Meena : Environment & Forests.
- 22 Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav : Water Resources.
- 23 Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh : Agriculture and Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- 24 Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal : Finance and Parliamentary Affairs..
- 25 Shri Anand Sharma : Ministry of External Affairs.
- 26 Shri Ajay Maken : Urban Development.
- 27 Shri Dinsha J. Patel : Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- 28 Shri M.M. Pallam Raju : Defence.
- 29 Shri Ashwani Kumar : Industrial Policy & Promotion, Commerce & Industry.
- 30 Shri Jairam Ramesh : Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Power.
- 31 Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu : Rural Development.
- 32 Smt. D. Purandeswari : Human Resource Development.
- 33 Shri M.H. Ambareesh : Information & Broadcasting.
- 34 Smt. V. Radhika Selvi : Home Affairs.
- 35 Shri V. Narayanasamy : Parliamentary Affairs and Planning.
- 36 Shri Santosh Bagrodia : Coal.
- 37 Shri Raghunath Jha : Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

Ming the Merciless

Australian Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies who served two terms covering 21 years became known as Ming the Merciless, after a character in the Flash Gordon films. His term at the official residence in Canberra was nicknamed the Ming Dynasty.

Patanjali Sastri	1951-1954	S. P. Sen Verma	1967-1972
ehar Chand Mahajan	1954-1954	Dr. Nagendra Singh	1972-1973
K. Mukherjea	1954-1956	T. Swaminathan	1973-1977
R. Das	1956-1959	S. L. Shakdhar	1977-1982
uvaneshwar Prasad Sinha	1959-1964	R. K. Trivedi	1982-1985
B. Gajendragadkar	1964-1966	R. V. S. Peri Sastri	1985-1990
K. Sarkar	Mar.-June, 1966	Smt. V.S. Ramadevi	15.11.90-12.12.90
Subba Rao	1966-1967	T. N. Seshan	1990 -1996
N. Wanchoo	1967-1968	M.S. Gill	1996-mid 2001
I. Hidayatullah	1968-1970	J.M. Lingdoh	2001-2004
C. Shah	1970-1971	T.S. Krishnamurthy	2004-05
M. Sikri	1971-1973	B.B. Tandon	2005-06
N. Ray	1973-1977	N. Gopalaswami	From 30.06.2006
M. H. Baig	1977-1978		
V. Chandrachud	1978-1985	Chiefs of Army Staff	
N. Bhagwati	1985-1986	General Maharaj	
S. Pathak	1986-1989	Rajendra Sinhji	Apr.-May, 1955
S. Venkataramiah	June-Dec., 1989	General S. M. Srinagesh	1955-1957
abyasachi Mukherjee	1989-1990	General K. S. Thimayya	1957-1961
anganath Mishra	1990-1991	General R. N. Thapar	1961-1962
C.N. Singh	1991-1991	General J. N. Chaudhuri	1962-1966
M. H. Kania	1991-1992	General P.P.	
alit Mohan Sharma	Nov.1992- Feb.1993	Kumaramangalam	'66-'69
Manepalli Narayanrao		General S. H. F. J. Manekshaw	1969-'72
Venkatachalliah	Feb. 1993-1994	Field Marshal S. H. F. J.	
Aziz Mushabber Ahmedi	1994- 1997	Manekshaw	Jan.01.73- Jan.14.73
Jagdish Sharan Verma	1997- 1998	General G. G. Bewoor	1973-1975
M.M. Punchhi	Jan.-Oct., 1998	General T. N. Raina	1975-1978
Adarsh Sein Anand	1998- 2001	General O. P. Malhotra	1978-1981
S.P. Bharucha	2001-2002	General K. V. Krishna Rao	1981-1983
B.N. Kirpal	May-Nov., 2002	General A. S. Vaidya	1983-1986
G.B. Pattanaik	Nov.-Dec., 2002	General K. Sundarjee	1986-1988
V.N. Khare	Dec. 2002-May 2004	General V. N. Sharma	1988-1990
S. Rajendra Babu	May 2, '04 - June 1, '04	General S. F. Rodrigues	1990-1993
R.C. Lahoti	June 1, '04 - Oct. 31, '05	General Bipin Chandra Joshi	1993-1994
Y.K. Sabharwal	Nov.1, '05 - Jan. 13, '07	General Shankar Roy	
K. G. Balakrishnan	From Jan. 14, 2007	Chowdhury	1994- 1997
		General Ved Prakash Malik	1997- 2000
		General Sundarrajan	
		Padmanabhan	2000- 2002
		General Nirmal Chander Vij	2002-2005
Chief Election Commissioners			
Sukumar Sen	1950-1958		
K. V. K. Sundaram	1958-1967		

Rwanda Goes English

African country Rwanda has adopted English as its language of international communication and as the language taught in schools, replacing French.

- 4. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury : Women & Child Development.
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- 8. Shri Praful Patel : Civil Aviation.
- 9. Shri G.K.Vasan : Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- 10. Dr. M. S. Gill : Youth Affairs & Sports.

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- 8. Shri Kantilal Bhunia : Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- 9. Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal : Home Affairs.
- 10. Shri Prithviraj Chavan : Prime Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
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- 12. Smt. Suryakanta Patil : Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs.
- 13. Shri Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi : Human Resource Development.
- 14. Shri R. Velu : Ministry of Railways.
- 15. Shri S.S. Palanimanickam : Finance.

- 16. Shri S. Jagtap : Environment and Forests.
- 17. Shri K. Venkateswamy : Law & Justice.
- 18. Smt. Suboulchand Jagdeo : Social Justice & Empowerment.
- 19. Shri E.V.K.S. Bangaru : Telecom.
- 20. Smt. Kanti Singh : Tourism and Culture.
- 21. Shri Namo Narain Meena : Environment & Forests.
- 22. Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav : Water Resources.
- 23. Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh : Agriculture and Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- 24. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal : Finance and Parliamentary Affairs..
- 25. Shri Anand Sharma : Ministry of External Affairs.
- 26. Shri Ajay Maken : Urban Development.
- 27. Shri Dinsha J. Patel : Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- 28. Shri M.M. Pallam Raju : Defence.
- 29. Shri Ashwani Kumar : Industrial Policy & Promotion, Commerce & Industry.
- 30. Shri Jairam Ramesh : Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Power.
- 31. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu : Rural Development.
- 32. Smt. D. Purandeswari : Human Resource Development.
- 33. Shri M.H. Ambareesh : Information & Broadcasting.
- 34. Smt. V. Radhika Selvi : Home Affairs.
- 35. Shri V. Narayanasamy : Parliamentary Affairs and Planning.
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- 37. Shri Raghunath Jha : Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

Ming the Merciless

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Council of Ministers

Cabinet Ministers

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister and also in-charge of the
ministries/ Departments not specifically
located to the charge of any Minister

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions;

Ministry of Planning;

Department of Atomic Energy; and

Department of Space;

Ministry of Coal and

Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee : External Affairs.

Shri Arjun Singh : Human Resource Development.

Shri Sharad Pawar : Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

Shri Lalu Prasad : Railways.

Shri A.K. Antony : Defence

Shri Shivraj V. Patil : Home Affairs.

Shri A.R. Antulay : Minority Affairs.

Shri Sushilkumar Shinde : Power

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan : Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of Steel.

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy : Urban Development.

Shri Sis Ram Ola : Mines.

Shri P. Chidambaram : Finance.

Shri Mahavir Prasad : Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Shri P.R. Kyndiah : Tribal Affairs.

Shri T.R. Baalu : Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.

17 Shri Shankersinh Vaghela : Textiles.

18 Shri Vayalar Ravi : Overseas Indian Affairs and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

19 Shri Kamal Nath : Commerce & Industry.

20 Shri H.R. Bhardwaj : Law & Justice.

21 Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev : Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

22 Prof. Saif-ud-din Soz : Water Resources.

23 Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh : Rural Development.

24 Shri Priyaranjan Dasmuni : Information & Broadcasting.

25 Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar : Panchayati Raj and Development of North Eastern Region.

26 Smt. Meira Kumar : Social Justice & Empowerment.

27 Shri Murli Deora : Petroleum & Natural Gas.

28 Smt. Ambika Soni : Tourism and Minister of Culture.

29 Shri A. Raja : Communications and Information Technology.

30 Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss : Health & Family Welfare.

31 Shri Kapil Sibal : Science & Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences.

32. Shri Prem Chand Gupta : Corporate Affairs.

Ministers Of State (Independent Charge)

1. Shri Oscar Fernandes : Labour & Employment.

The Hero of Trafalgar

Lord Nelson of Britain known for his triumph at the Battle of Trafalgar joined the navy at the age of 12 and was made a captain at 20. He died aboard his ship, 'Victory' and his body was brought back to England for burial pickled in brandy.

5 Jammu and Kashmir National Conference(J&KNC)	2	.
6 Kerala Congress(KEC)	2	P.C. Thomas
7 All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimmen(AIMIM)	1	Asaduddin Owaisi
8 All India Trinamool Congress(AITC)	1	Kum. Mamata Banerjee
9 Bharatiya Navshakti Party(BNP)	1	Delkar Mohanbhai Sanjibhai
10 Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party(J&KPDP)	1	Ms. Mehbooba Mufti
11 Mizo National Front(MNF)	1	Vanlalawma
12 Muslim League Kerala State Committee(MLKSC)	1	Shri E. Ahmed
13 Nagaland Peoples Front(NPF)	1	W. Wangyuh
14 National Loktantrik Party(NLP)	1	Baleshwar Yadav
15 Republican Party of India(A)(RPI(A))	1	Athawale Ramdas Bandu
16 Sikkim Democratic Front(SDF)	1	Nakul Das Rai
17 Independent(Ind.)	6	.

Party Position: Rajya Sabha

Rajya Sabha party position (As on august 30 2008)		Total 245 Number of vacant seats 2	
1. Indian National Congress	71	17. All India Trinamool Congress	2
2. Bharatiya Janata Party	53	18. Janata Dal (Secular)	2
3. Samajwadi Party	16	19. Indian National Lok Dal	1
4. Communist Party of India (Marxist)	15	20. J&K National Conference	1
5. Janta Dal (United)	8	21. All India Forward Block	1
6. All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham	7	22. Bodoland People's Front	1
7. Bahujan Samaj Party	6	23. Swtantra Bharat Paksh	1
8. Nationalist Congress Party	6	24. Sikkim Democratic Front	1
9. Shiv Sena	4	25. Rashtriya Lok Dal	1
10. Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	26. Revolutionary Socialist Party	1
11. Dravida Munnetra Kazagham	4	27. Lok Janasakti Party	1
12. Biju Janata Dal	4	28. Muslim League	1
13. Communist Party of India	4	29. Mizo National Front	1
14. Shiromani Akali Dal	3	30. Nagaland People's Front	1
15. Telugu Desam Party	3	31. Peoples Democratic Party	1
16. Asom Gana Parishad	2	32. Pattali Makkal Katchi	1
		Independent & Others	6
		Nominated	9

The Stinking Pheasant

The world's smelliest bird is the hoatzin, native to the Colombian rainforest, according to GWR. It stinks like cow manure. Its local name 'pava hedionda' means stinking pheasant.

Dr. Rameshwar Oraon : Tribal Af-
 5. Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia:
 munciations and Information Tech-

nology.

40 Shri Jitin Prasada : Steel.

Note: Incorporates changes in the Council of
 Ministers as on 28.04.2008.

Party Position: Lok Sabha

Fourteenth Lok Sabha
(As on August 30 2008)

Total Members 545
Vacant Constituencies 3

No. Order	Name of Party	Member
	Indian National Congress(INC)	153 Pranab Mukherjee
	Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP)	129 L.K. Advani
	CommunistParty of India (Marxist)(CPI(M))	42 Basudeb Acharia
	Samajwadi Party(SP)	39 Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav
	Rashtriya Janata Dal(RJD)	24 Lalu Prasad
	Bahujan Samaj Party(BSP)	17 Rajesh Verma
	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK)	16 C. Kuppusami
	Shiv Sena(SS)	12 Anant Geete
	Biju Janata Dal(BJD)	11 Braja Kishore Tripathy
	Nationalist Congress Party(NCP)	11 -
	Communist Party of India(CPI)	10 Gurudas Dasgupta
	Janata Dal (United)(JD(U))	8 Prabhunath Singh
	Shiromani Akali Dal(SAD)	8 Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
	Pattali Makkal Katchi(PMK)	6 Prof. M. Ramadass
	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha(JMM)	5 Shibu Soren
	Telugu Desam Party(TDP)	5 K. Yerrannaidu
	Lok Jan Shakti Party(LJSP)	4 Ram Vilas Paswan
	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(MDMK)	4 L. Ganesan
	All India Forward Bloc(AIFB)	3 -
	Janata Dal (Secular)(JD(S))	3 M.P. Veerendra Kumar
	Rashtriya Lok Dal(RLD)	3 -
	Revolutionary Socialist Party(RSP)	3 Joachim Baxla
	Telangana Rashtra Samithi(TRS)	3 Kalva Kuntla Chandrasekhar
	Asom Gana Parishad(AGP)	2 Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma

Nylon

Nylon, introduced commercially in 1938, was the first truly synthetic fibre. It is widely used in fibre form and in solid blocks. Nylon is used to make small engineering components. It can be coloured with pigments.

ection Commissioners: Dr. S.Y. Quraishi
 and Navin B. Chawla
 Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister :
 T.K.A. Nair
 National Security Adviser to the Prime
 Minister : M.K. Narayanan
 Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. : Dr.
 R. Chidambaram
 Registrar-General & Census Commissioner:
 Dr. D.K. Sikri
 Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister :
 Dr. M. Natarajan
 Secretary-General, Lok Sabha: P.D.T.
 Achari
 Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha: Dr. V.K.
 Agnihotri
 Governor, Reserve Bank of India: Dr. D.
 Subbarao
 Cabinet Secretary : K.M. Chandrasekhar
 Foreign Secretary : Shiv Shankar Menon
 Home Secretary : Madhukar Gupta
 Finance Secretary : Arun Ramanathan
 Defence Secretary: Vijay Singh
 Chairman, National Security Advisory Board:
 K.S. Bajpai
 Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advi-
 sory Council : Suresh Tendulkar
 Surveyor General of India: Dr. Prithvish
 Nag
 Chief Vigilance Commissioner: Pratyush
 Sinha
 Chairman, Central Advisory Board on Child
 Labour : A.S. Khataria
 Chairman, National Knowledge Commis-
 sion: Sam Pitroda
 Chairman, Prasar Bharti: Arun Bhatnagar
 Chairman, UPSC: D.P. Agrawal
 Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission:
 Anil Kakadkar
 Chairman, CBSE : Vineet Joshi
 Chairman, Central Administrative Tribunal

(CAT) : V.K. Bali
 Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes:
 N.B. Singh
 Chairman, Central Board of Excise and
 Customs : P.C. Jha
 Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certifica-
 tion: Ms. Sharmila Tagore
 Chairman, NABARD: Umesh Chandra
 Sarangi
 Chairman, ABC: C.H. Kiron
 Chairman, Central Electricity Authority :
 Rakesh Nath
 Chairman, Food Corporation of India :
 Alak Sinha
 Chairman, Foreign Inv. Promotion Board :
 V. Gavindarajan
 Chairman, Air India : Reghu Menon
 Chairman, ISRO : G. Madhavan Nair
 Chairman, Law Commission: A.R. Lak-
 shmanan
 Chairman, Life Insurance-Corporation of
 India: T. S. Vijayan
 Chairman, National Book Trust: Bipan
 Chandra
 Chairman, National Commission on Farm-
 ers: Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
 Chairman, National Commission for Minor-
 ities: Mohammad Shafi Qureshi
 Chairman, National Commission for SCs :
 Buta Singh
 Chairman, National Commission for
 Backward Classes : Justice S. Ratnavel
 Pandian
 Chairman, NHRC : Justice S. Rajendra
 Babu
 Chairman, Investment Commission : Ratan
 Tata
 Chairman, Press Council of India : Justice
 G.N. Ray
 Chairman, Press Trust of India: E.V.
 Chitnis

Gold Coins at Post Offices

Indian Post Offices are now selling gold coins. Initially over 100 Post Offices in Delhi,
 Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat will sell 24 carat gold coins of 15 grams.

Women Chief Ministers In India

ne	State	Period	Party
ucheta Kripalani	UP	2 Oct.1963 to 14 Mar. 1967	Congress
landini Satpaty	Orissa	14 June 1972 to 03 Mar. 1974 & 6 Mar. 1974 to 16 Dec. 1976	Congress
ashikala Kadokar	Goa	13th Aug. 1973 to 7th June 1977 & 7th June 1977 to 28th Apr. 1979	Maharashrawadi Gomantak Party
Syeda Anwara Taimur	Assam	12th Dec. 1980 to 29th June 1981	Congress
anaki Ramachandran	TN	7th to 30th Jan. 1988	A.I.A.D.M.K. (Janaki)
J. Jayalithaa	TN	24th June 1991 to 13th May 1996 14th May to 21st Sept. 2001 2nd Mar. 2002 to 12th May 2006	A.I.A.D.M.K
Mayawati	UP	3rd June 1995 to 18th Oct. 1995 & 21st Mar. 1997 to 21st Sept. 1997 3rd May 2002 to 29th Sept. 2003 13th May 2007 -	B.S.P
Rajinder Kaur Bhattal	Punjab	21st Nov. 1996 to 12th Feb. 1997	Congress
Rabri Devi	Bihar	25th July 1997 to 12th Feb. 1999 & 9th Mar. 1999 to 3rd Mar. 2000 & 11th March 2000 to 7th Jan. 2005	R.J.D
J. Sushma Swaraj	Delhi	12th Oct. to 3rd Dec. 1998.	B.J.P
I. Sheila Dixit	Delhi	3rd Dec. 1998 to 15th Dec. 2003 Since 15th Dec. 2003-	Congress
2. Uma Bharti	M.P	8th Dec. 2003 to 23rd Aug. 2004	B.J.P
3. Vasundhara Raje	Rajasthan	8th Dec. 2003	B.J.P

Heads of Important Offices

President of India: Smt.Pratibha Patil
 Vice President: Mohammad Hamid Ansari
 Prime Minister : Dr. Manmohan Singh
 Chief Justice : Justice K. G. Balakrishnan
 Speaker, Lok Sabha: Somnath Chatterjee
 Dy. Speaker, Lak Sabha: Charanjit Singh Atwal
 Chairman, Rajya Sabha: Mahammad Hamid Ansari

Dy.Chairman, Rajya Sabha: K.Rahman Khan
 Chairman,Planning Commisssian: Dr. Manmohan Singh
 Attorney General: Milan Banerji
 Solicitar General: Goalam E. Vahanvati
 Comptroller and Auditor-General: Vinod Rai
 Chief Election Cammissionaner: N. Gapal-aswami

Congress Presidents

1885 Bombay	W.C. Bonnerjee	1919 Amritsar	Motilal Nehru
1886 Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji	1920 Nagpur	(Annual Session)
1887 Madras	Badurddin Tyabji		C. Vijayaragavachariar
1888 Allahabad	George Yule	1921 Allahabad	C.R. Das (In Prison)
1889 Bombay	Sir William Wedderburn		Acting President Hakim Ajmal Khan
1890 Calcutta	Sir Phirozshah Mehta	1922 Gaya	C.R. Das
1891 Nagpur	P. Ananda Charlu	1923	(Special Session) Lajpat Rai
1892 Allahabad	W.C. Bonnerjee	1923 Kakinada	(Annual Session)
1893 Lahore	Dadabhai Naoroji		Mohammed Ali
1894 Madras	Alfred Webb	1924 Belgaum	M.K. Gandhi
1895 Poona	S.N. Banerjee	1925 Kanpur	Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
1896 Calcutta	Rahimtulla Sayani	1926 Gauhati	S. Srinivasa Iyengar
1897 Amravati	Sir C.S. Nair	1927 Madras	Dr. M.A. Ansari
1898 Madras	A.M. Bose	1928 Calcutta	Motilal Nehru
1899 Lucknow	R.C. Dutt	1929 Lahore	Jawaharlal Nehru
1900 Lahore	N.G. Chandravarkar	1930 Karachi	Jawaharlal Nehru
1901 Calcutta	D.E. Wacha	1931	Vallabhbhai Patel
1902 Ahmadabad	S.N. Banerjee	1932	R. Amritlal.
1903 Madras	L.M. Ghosh	1933 Calcutta	Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta
1904 Bombay	Sir Henry Cotton	1934 Bombay	Rajendra Prasad
1905 Banaras	G.K. Gokhale	1935 Lucknow	Rajendra Prasad
1906 Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji	1936	Jawaharlal Nehru
1907 Surat	Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh	1937 Fazipur	Jawaharlal Nehru
1908 Madras	Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh	1938 Haripura	Subhas Chandra Bose
1909 Lahore	M.M. Malaviya	1939 Tripuri	Subhas Chandra Bose
1910 Allahabad	Sir William Wedderburn		(Subhas Chandra Bose was
1911 Calcutta	B.N. Dhar		re-elected but had to resign.
1912 Patna	R.N. Madholkar		Rajendra Prasad was appointed
1913 Karachi	Syed Mohammad Bahadur		in his stead)
1914 Madras	Bhupendra Nath basu	1940-46	(Maulana) Abul Kalam Azad
1915 Bombay	Sir S.P. Sinha	1946 (July-Sept.)	Jawaharlal Nehru
1916 Lucknow	A.C. Mazumdar	1946-47 Meerut	J.B. Kripalani
1917 Calcutta	Mrs. Annie Besant	1948 Jaipur	Pattabhi Sitaramaiah
1918 (Special Session)	Hassan Imam	1950 Nasik	Purushotam Das Tandon
1918 Delhi..	(Annual Session)	1951 Delhi	Jawaharlal Nehru
	M.M. Malaviya	1953 Hyderabad	Jawaharlal Nehru

Bhoodan Movement

Bhoodan movement was started by Vinoba Bhave in 1950. The first donation of 80 acres of land came from M. Ramakrishna Reddy.

Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India : C.B. Bhavé
Chairman, State Bank of India : O.P. Bhatt
Chairman, University Grants Commission: S.K. Thorat
Chairman, ONGC: R.S. Sharma
Chairman, IRDA : C.S. Rao
Chairman, UTI: U.K. Sinha
Chairman, Staff Selection Commission: Dr. (Mrs.) C. Tshering Mishra
President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations: Dr. Karan Singh
Chairman, ICHR: Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya
Chairman, IFFCO : S.K. Jakhar
Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research: Javeed Alam
Chairman, Bombay Stock Exchange: Jagdish Kapoor
Chairman, Railway Board: K. C. Jena
Chairman, Tea Board: Basudeb Banerjee
Chairman, Coir Board: Sesh Kumar Pulipaka
Chairman, Rubber Board: Sajen Peter
Chairman, Coal India: Partha S. Bhattacharya
Chairman, SAIL: Sushil Kumar Roongta
Chairman, Sixth Pay Commission: Justice B.N. Srikrishna
Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi : Ram Niwas Mirdha
Chairman, National School of Drama: Smt. Amal Allana
Chairperson, Central Social Welfare Board: Prema Cariappa
Chairperson, KVIC: Ms. Kumud Joshi
Chairperson, Children's Film Society of India: Nafisa Ali Sodhi
Chairperson, National Commission for Women : Girija Vyas

CMD, IDBI : Yogesh Agarwal
Director, BARC : S. Banerjee
Director, CBI : Ashwani Kumar
Director, VSSC : K. Radhakrishnan
Director, Intelligence Bureau: P. Halder
Director, NCERT : Prof. Krish Kumar
Director, Research and Analysis Wing: Ash Chaturvedi
Director General, Doordarshan : Noreen Naqui
D-G, Border Roads Organisation: Lt. Gen. A.K. Nanda
D-G, BSF : M.L. Kumawat
D-G, Coast Guard: Vice Admiral Rusto Faramroze Contractor
D-G, CRPF : V.K. Joshi
D-G, CSIR : Samir K. Brahmachari
D-G, ICMR : Prof. N.K. Ganguly
D-G, ASI: Anshu Vaish
D-G, Ordnance Factories & Ch., Ordnance Factory Board : Sudipta Ghosh
D-G, Employee State Insurance Corporation: P.C. Chaturvedi
D-G, National Cadet Corps: Lt. General Prakash S. Chaudhary
D-G, Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D): K. Koshy
President, Assocham: Sajjan Jindal
Director General AIR : G. Jayalal
President, BCCI : Shashank Manohar
President, CII : K.V. Kamath
President, FICCI : Rajiv Chandrasekhar
President, NASSCOM : Som Mittal
President, Indian Newspaper Society: Hormusji N. Cama
President, Indian Olympic Association: Suresh Kalmadi
President, Lalit Kala Akademi: Ashok Vajpai
President, UPASI : D.P. Maheswari

Teen Murti House

The official residence of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister, was Teen Murti House which became Nehru Memorial Museum after Nehru's death in 1964.

Phobias

Phobia is the unreasonable, unrealistic and excessive fear to a particular object, subjects or situation.

<p>achluophobia: darkness</p> <p>acrophobia: heights</p> <p>agoraphobia: open spaces</p> <p>ailurophobia: cats</p> <p>androphobia: men</p> <p>arachnophobia: spiders</p> <p>arithmophobia: numbers</p> <p>atychiphobia: failure</p> <p>autrophobia: gold</p> <p>baconophobia: ugliness</p> <p>carcinophobia: cancer</p> <p>ceratunophobia: thunder</p> <p>chaetophobia: hair</p> <p>chrometophobia: money</p>	<p>cibophobia: food</p> <p>claustrophobia: confined spaces</p> <p>dentophobia: dentists</p> <p>dipsophobia: drinking</p> <p>domatophobia: houses</p> <p>electrophobia: electricity</p> <p>enochlophobia: crowds</p> <p>febriphobia: fever</p> <p>gerascophobia: growing old</p> <p>heliophobia: the sun</p> <p>hydrophobia: water</p> <p>kenophobia: empty spaces</p>	<p>lathanophobia: vegetables</p> <p>methyphobia: alcohol</p> <p>motorphobia: automobiles</p> <p>noctiphobia: night</p> <p>nosocomophobia: hospitals</p> <p>ombrophobia: rain</p> <p>ophidiophobia: snakes</p> <p>pharmacophobia: medicines</p> <p>plutophobia: wealth</p> <p>trypanophobia: injections</p> <p>venustraphobia: beautiful women</p> <p>xenophobia: strangers</p> <p>zoophobia: animals</p>
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Endangered Animal Species

Common Name	Range
Albatross, Amsterdam	Amsterdam Island, Indian Ocean
Antelope, giant sable	Angola
Amadillo, giant	Venezuela, Guyana to Argentina
Babirusa	Indonesia
Bandicoot, desert	Australia
Bat, gray	Central, sotheastern US
Bear, Mexican girzzly	Mexico
Bison, wood	Canada, northwestern US
Bobcat, Mexican	Central Mexico
Caiman, black	Amazon basin

Bottled Water

It is estimated that the world drinks over 150 billion litres of bottled water every year. That is enough to fill 60,000 Olympic-size swimming pools (Whitaker's World Book of Facts)

1954 Kalyan	Jawaharlal Nehru	1969 New Delhi	C. Subramanian
1955 Avadi	U.N. Dhebar	1970 New Delhi	Jagjivan Ran
1956 Amritsar	U.N. Dhebar	1971 Ahmedabad	D. Sanjivayya
1957 Indore	U.N. Dhebar	1972 Calcutta	Shankar Dayal Sharma
1958 Pragyotishpur	U.N. Dhebar	1975 Chandigarh	D.K. Barooah
1959 Nagpur	U.N. Dhebar	1976 New Delhi	Brahmananda Reddy
1960 Bangalore	Indira Gandhi	1978 New Delhi	Indira Gandhi
1961 Bhavnagar	N. Sanjiva Reddy	1983 Calcutta	Indira Gandhi
1962 New Delhi	D. Sanjivayya	1984 New Delhi	Rajiv Gandhi
1964 Bhubaneswar	K. Kamaraj	1985 Bombay	Rajiv Gandhi
1965 Durgapur	K. Kamaraj	1991 New Delhi	P.V. Narasimha Rao
1966 Jaipur	K. Kamaraj	1996 New Delhi	Sitaram Kesri
1968 Bangalore	S. Nijalingappa	1998 New Delhi	Sonia Gandhi

Major Airports of India with Codes

Agartala	IXA	Guwahati*	GAU	Mumbai*	BOM
Agatti	AGX	Hubli	HBX	Nagpur	NAG
Agra	AGR	Hyderabad*	HYD	Patna	PAT
Ahmedabad*	AMD	Imphal	IMF	Port Blair	IXZ
Aizawl	AJL	Indore	IDR	Pune	PNQ
Amritsar*	ATO	Jabalpur	JLR	Raipur	RPR
Aurangabad	IXU	Jaipur	JAI	Rajkot	RAJ
Bagdogra	IXB	Jammu	IXJ	Ranchi	IXR
Bangalore*	BLR	Jamnagar	JGA	Shillong	SHL
Belgaum	IXG	Jamshedpur	IXW	Silchar	IXS
Bhopal	BHO	Jodhpur	JDH	Srinagar	SXR
Bhubaneshwar	BBJ	Jorhat	JRH	Surat	STV
Chandigarh	IXC	Kanpur	KNU	Tezpur	TEZ
Chennai*	MAA	Kochi*	COK	Thiruvananthapuram*TRV	TRV
Coimbatore	CJB	Kolhapur	KLH	Tiruchirapalli	TRZ
Delhi*	DEL	Kolkata*	CCU	Tirupati	TIR
Dehra Dun	DED	Kozhikode	CCJ	Udaipur	UDR
Dibrugarh	DIB	Leh	IXL	Vadodara	BDQ
Dimapur	DMU	Lilabari	IXI	Varanasi	VNS
Gaya	GAY	Lucknow	LKO	Vijayawada	VGA
Goa*	GOI	Madurai	IXM	Visakhapatnam	VTZ
		Mangalore	IXE		

Charles Lindbergh

The first person to be selected 'Time' magazine's Man of the Year 1927 was aviator Charles Lindbergh.

Whale, humpback	Oceania
Wolf, red	US (FL, NC < SC)
Woodpecker, ivory-billed	Cuba
Yak, wild	China (Tibet), India
Zebra, mountain	South Africa

Select Currencies

Country	Currency	US\$			
Euro Nations	Euro	0.6819	Liechtenstein	Swiss Franc	1.0885
Afghanistan	Afgani	46.7	Malaysia	Ringgit	3.4225
Algeria	Algerian Dinar	60.2950	Maldives	Rufiyaa	12.800
Angola	Readjusted Kwanza	74.800	Mauritius	Mauritius Rupee	28.8000
Argentina	Peso	3.1013	Mexico	Mexican Peso	10.7715
Australia	Australian Dollar	1.1933	Morocco	Dirham	7.7395
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar	0.3771	Mozambique	Metical	24.1750
Bangladesh	Taka	68.495	Myanmar	Kyat	6.4350
Bhutan	Ngultrum	45.9450	Namibia	Namibia Dollar	8.0838
Brazil	Real	1.8410	Nepal	Nepalese Rupee	73.5120
Bulgaria	Lev	1.3338	New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	1.4569
Canada	Canadian dollar	1.0348	Nicaragua	Gold Cordoba	19.5905
Chile	Chilean peso	538.650	Nigeria	Naira	117.645
China	Renminbi Yuan	6.8237	Norway	Norwegian Krone	5.6212
Colombia	Colombian Peso	2139.35	Oman	Rial Omani	0.3850
Cuba	Cuban Peso	1.0000	Pakistan	Pakistan Rupee	78.1750
Czech Republic	Koruna	16.6048	Paraguay	Guarani	3985.00
Denmark	Danish Krone	5.0870	Philippines, The	Peso	46.4375
Ethiopia	Birr	9.7376	Poland	Zloty	2.2689
Fiji Islands	Fiji Dollar	1.6155	Russia	Rouble	24.9952
India	Rupee	45.9450	Saudi Arabia	Rial	3.7541
Indonesia	Rupiah	9335.00	Singapore	Singapore Dollar	1.4233
Iran	Rial	9618.00	South Africa	Rand	8.0838
Iraq	New Iraqi Dinar	1180.00	Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan Rupee	107.900
Israel	Shekel	3.4190	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.0885
Japan	Yen	106.025	Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar	31.9605
Kazakhstan	Tenge	119.755	Thailand	Baht	33.9700
Kenya	Shilling	73.8100	United Arab		
Korea, North	Won	142.450	Emirates	Dirham	3.6728
Korea, South	Won	1154.30	United	-	
Kuwait	Kuwaiti Dinar	0.2663	Kingdom	Pound Sterling	0.5399
Laos	Kip	8541.00	United States		
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	1501.50	of America	Dollar	1.0000
Libya	Libyan Dinar	1.2165	Zambia	Kwacha	3565.00
			Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Dollar	113.131

Exchange rates as of Oct. 1 2008

Camel, Bactrian	Mongolia, China
Caribou, woodland	Canada, Northwestern US
Cheetah	Africa to India
Chimpanzee, pygmy	Congo (formerly Zaire)
Condor, California	US (AZ, CA, OR), Mexico (Baja California)
Crane, whooping	Canada, Mexico, US (Rocky Mts. to Caroli
Crocodile, America	US (FL), Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Central and S. America
Deer, Columbian white-tailed	US (OR, WA)
Dolphin, Chinese river	China
Dugong	East Africa to southern Japan
Elephant, Asian	Central and southeastern Asia
Fox, northern swift	Canada
Frog, mountain yellow-legged	Western US (CA, NV)
Gorilla	Central and W. Africa
Hartebeest, Tora	Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan
Hawk, Hawaiian	US (HI)
Hyena, brown	Southern Africa
Impala, black-faced	Angola, Namibia
Kangaroo, Tasmanian forester	Australia (Tasmania)
Leopard	Africa and Asia
Lion, Asiatic	Turkey to India
Manatee, West Indian	Southern US, Caribbean Sea, Mexico
Monkey, Spider	Costa Rica, Nicaragua
Ocelot	US (AZ, TX) to Central and S America
Orangutan	Borneo, Sumatra
Ostrich, West African	W Sahara
Otter, marine	Peru south to Straits of Magellan
Panda, giant	China
Panther, Florida	US (FL)
Parakeet, golden	Brazil
Parrot, imperial	West Indies (Dominica)
Penguin, Galapagos	Ecuador (Galapagos Islands)
Puma, eastern	Eastern N America (presumed extinct in wild)
Python, Indian	Sri Lanka, India
Rat-kangaroo, brush-tailed	Australia
Rhinoceros, black	Sub-Saharan Africa
Rhinoceros, northern white	Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Central African Rep.
Salamander, Chinese giant	Western China
Sea-lion, Steller	Alaska, Russia
Sheep, bighorn	California
Squirrel, Carolina northern flying	US (NC, TN)
Tiger	Asia
Tortoise, Galapagos	Ecuador (Galapagos Islands)
Turtle, Plymouth red-bellied	US (MA)
Whale, gray	N. Pacific Ocean

Growing up Without Tobacco

Resolutions Passed on No Tobacco Day

1990 Childhood and youth without tobacco: growing up without tobacco

1991 Public places and transport: better be tobacco free

1992 Tobacco-free workplaces: safer and healthier

1993 Health Services : our windows to a tobacco-free world

1994 Media and tobacco : get the message across

1995 Tobacco costs more than you think

1996 Sport and art without tobacco: play it tobacco free

1997 United for a tobacco-free world

1998 Growing up without tobacco

1999 Leave the pack behind

2000 Tobacco kills, don't be duped

2001 Second-hand smoke kills

2002 Tobacco-free sports

2003 Tobacco-free film, tobacco-free fashion

2004 Tobacco and poverty: a vicious circle

2005 Health professionals against tobacco

2006 Tobacco deadly in any form or disguise

2007 Smoke-free future

2008 Tobacco-free youth

World Heritage Sites in India

Assam: Kaziranga National Park ; Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

Bihar: Mahabodhi Temple Complex, Bodhi Gaya

Delhi: Humayun's Tomb, Qutub Minar and its monument, Red Fort

Goa: Basilica of Bom Jesus and other churches of Goa

Gujarat: Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park

Karnataka: Group of Monuments at Hampi ; Group of Monuments at Pattadakal

Kerala Pradesh: The Majestic Kandariya Mahadev Temple at The Khajuraho group of Temples Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, Rock Shelters

of Bhimbetka, Khajuraho Group of Monuments

Maharashtra: Ajanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai, Elephanta Caves , Ellora Caves

Orissa: Konark Sun Temple, Konark

Rajasthan: Keoladeo National Park

Tamil Nadu: Great Living Chola Temples, Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, Nilgiri Mountain Railway[2]

Uttar Pradesh: Agra Fort, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Taj Mahal, Agra

Uttaranchal: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park

West Bengal: Mountain Railways of India, Darjeeling, Sundarbans National Park

10 Most Endangered Rivers

The 2007 report of the World Wide Fund for Nature says 10 of the world's mightiest rivers are dying

- 1. Salween, Nujiang or Nu River - Location:** Shared by China, Myanmar and Thailand, it flows from the Tibetan Plateau. **Major threat:** Dams
- 2. La Plata - Location:** It crosses five countries. Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia. **Major threat:** Dams and navigation.
- 3. Danube - Location:** Covers 19 countries including Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Romania, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine. **Major threat:** Navigation
- 4. Rio Grande - Location:** Forms a border between the US (Texas) and Mexico and finally opens into a sandy delta at the Gulf of Mexico. **Major threat:** Water over-extraction.

5. Ganges - Location: From central Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. **Major threat:** Water over-extraction.

6. Murray-Darling - Location: Covers four Australian states. **Major threat:** Invasive species.

7. Indus - Location: Spans Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and China. **Major threat:** climate change.

8. Nile - Location : Basin falls within 11 countries-Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Eritrea.

9. Yangtze - Location : It rises in the mountains of Qinghai Province on the Tibetan plateau and opens at Shanghai into the East China Sea. **Major threat:** Pollution.

10. Mekong - Location : Originates from China's Qinghai province near Tibet, it flows through Cambodia into the South China Sea. **Major threat:** Overfishing.

How They Say Good Morning

Czech	<i>Dobre rano</i>
Danish	<i>God morgen</i>
Dutch	<i>Goedemorgen</i>
English	<i>Good morning</i>
Estonian	<i>Tere hommikust</i>
Finnish	<i>Hyvaa huomenta</i>
French	<i>Bonjour</i>
German	<i>Guten Morgen</i>
Greek	<i>Kalimera</i>
Hungarian	<i>Jo reggelt</i>
Italian	<i>Buon giorno</i>
Latvian	<i>Labrit</i>
Lithuanian	<i>Labas Rytas</i>
Maltese	<i>L-Ghodwa t-Tajba</i>
Polish	<i>Dzien dobry</i>

Portuguese	<i>Bom dia</i>
Slovak	<i>Dobre rano</i>
Slovene	<i>Dobro jutro</i>
Spanish	<i>Buenos dias</i>
Swedish	<i>God morgon</i>

More Forms of Greetings

Namaste/Namaskar	Hindi
Ahlan wasahlan	Arabic
Vanakkam	Tamil
Namaskaram	Malayalam
Zdravstvuyte	Russia
Assalam-u-alaikum	Urdu
Nin hao	Mandarin
Sat Sri Akal	Punjabi
Nomoskar	Bengali

Major Styles of Painting

Gothic (12th-16th centuries) Religious paintings with Christian themes.

Renaissance (15th-16th centuries) Classical Greek and Roman subjects

Baroque (1600-1780) Mainly in Catholic European countries

Rococo (18th century) curved forms, slender proportions asymmetry

Pre-Raphaelite (19th c) London. Symbolic style. (Dante Gabriel Rossetti)

Romanticism (1830, France. Often mythological themes)

Impressionism (Late 19th c). Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas)

Postimpressionism (Beginning of 20th c. Spiritual significance of objects. Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin)

Expressionism (20th c.) Emotional themes expressed through distorted shapes

and violent colours

Fauvism Distorted shapes, violent colours, (Henri Matisse, 1869-1954, of France)

Cubism Geometric style. Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso)

Abstract Art (20th c. Non representational styles. Piet Mondrian, Braque, sculpture of Henry Moore)

Realism (scenes as they are)

Surrealism (From 1920s. French movement. (Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte)

Action Painting Splashing, throwing and pouring paint over canvas and allowing it to form its own shapes. (Jackson Pollock)

Pop Art (1950s) Using comic strip cartoons, advertisements and images of filmstars. (David Hockney, Eduardo Paolozzi, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein)

Highest Population Densities

According to the Population Reference Bureau, these ten countries have the world's highest population per square mile.

1. Monaco	- 44,000 people per square mile	4. Bahrain	- 2,793
2. Singapore	- 18,652	5. Bangladesh	- 2,637
3. Malta	- 3,278	6. Maldives	- 2,573
		7. Barbados	- 1,626
		8. Mauritius	- 1,592
		9. Nauru	- 1,529
		10. San Marino	- 1,338

Women MPs in Lok Sabha

The first Lok Sabha had only 23 women members. The number has been growing since then. Women's representation was as high as 46 in the eighth Lok Sabha. The growth has been marked since the 11th Lok Sabha, which had 40 women MPs. The number rose to 52, the highest so far, in the 13th Lok Sabha.

Lok Sabha	MPs		
1 st	- 23	8 th	- 46
2 nd	- 24	9 th	- 28
3 rd	- 37	10 th	- 39
4 th	- 32	11 th	- 40
5 th	- 26	12 th	- 44
6 th	- 28	13 th	- 52
7 th	- 32	14 th	- 54

*Kum. Mawawat on 26.6.54

Puranas

There are 18 major Puranas and 18 minor ones. Classified into three as 'Brahma', 'Vaishnav' & 'Saiva', the 18 major puranas are: Brahma, Brahmand, Brahma Vivarthan, Bhavishya, Markhandeya, Vamana, Narndeeya, Bhagavad, Garuda, Padma, Varaha, Agni, Matsya, Kurma, Laga, Vayu, Vishnu and Skanda.

The longest of them is Skanda which contains 84,000 verses. Padmapur with 55,000 verses comes second. Garuda and Kurma with 8000 verses each are the shortest. Bhagavad remains most popular, with translations even in European languages.

Navratnas

The nine luminaries of Vikramaditya's court were called Navratnas (Nine Jewels)

Name	Discipline	Major Works
1. Kshapanaka	Astrology	Science of Astrology
2. Dhanwanthari	Medicine	
3. Kalidas	Poetry /Drama	Raghuvamsa, Kumarasambhava, Meghsandesha, Ritusamhara, Sakuntala
4. Amarasimha	Lexicography	Amarakosh (Nama linganusasanam)
5. Varahamihira	Astrology	Brihadsamhita
6. Vararuchi	Grammar	
7. Sankhu	Vasthuvidya	Architecture
8. Vetlabhatta	Magic	Science of Magic
9. Harisena	Poetry	-

Upanishads

Upanishads are explanatory treatises on the vedas. Ten of the most important Upanishads composed by Sankaracharya are: 1. Eesavasya 2. Kenam 3. Kadham 4. Prasna 5. Mundhaka 6. Mandukya 7. Chandegya 8. Brihadaranyaka 9. Aithareya 10. Thaitthariya. While Brihadaranyaka remains the longest, the 19 sloka long Eesavasya is the shortest. Our motto 'Satyameva Jayate' is taken from Mundhaka. 'Thamasoma Jyothirgamaya' appears in Brihadaranyaka. Thaittareya gives us 'mathrudevobhave, pithrudevo bhava athithi devo bhava.'

Vedangas which help us learn of the Vedas are 1. Siksha 2. Kalpa 3. Grammar 4. Nirukta 5. Chandas 6. Jyotish

Indian Mythological Characters

Abhimanyu: The heroic son of Arjuna, the central figure of the Mahabharata, by his wife Subhadra.

Ahalya: A Princess of the Puru dynasty, who was turned into a stone by the curse of her husband, Gautama.

Arjuna: The third of the Pandavas.

Asvathama: Son of Drona and Kripa.

Agneyi: Wife of Kuru, son of Manu.

Balabhadra (Balarama, Baladeva): The elder brother of Srikrishna and the eighth incarnation of Mahavishnu.

Bali (Mahabali): An emperor of the Asuras. He was the son of Virochana and the grandson of Prahlada.

Bharata: Son of Dasaratha.

Bhima: Bhimasena, one of the five Pandavas.

Bhishma: Eighth son of Santanu, a king of the lunar dynasty and Gangadevi.

Brihaspati: The teacher of the devas (Gods).

Dasaratha: A famous king of the Ikshvaku dynasty, father of Sarama.

Dharmaputra: The eldest of the Pandavas.

Dhritarashtra: Father of the Kauravas.

Indrani: Wife of Indra.

Karna: The eldest son of Kunti. Though he was the brother of the Pandavas he joined sides with the Kauravas and became the king of Anga.

Krishna: Born in the Yadava dynasty as the son of Vasudeva and Devaki; the ninth of the incarnations of Mahavishnu.

Kunti: Wife of king Pandu and the mother of the Pandavas.

Lakshmana: Son born to Dasaratha by Sumitra.

Panchali (Draupadi): wife of the Pandavas.

Parasara: Sakti, son of Vasishta begot of his wife Adrsyanti the son named Parasara.

Parasurama: An incarnation of Mahavishnu, as man.

Parvati: Wife of Siva.

Prahlada: Son of Hiranyakasipu and Kayachu.

Rama: The seventh incarnation of Mahavishnu.

Ravana: The Rakshasa king of Lanka who had ten heads.

Saraswati: Goddess of Learning.

World: Major Nuclear Accidents

Sept. 30, 1999: Japan's worst nuclear accident ever occurred at a uranium-processing facility in Tokaimura, NE of Tokyo, when workers accidentally over-loaded a container with uranium, thereby posing workers and area residents to extremely high radiation levels.

Apr. 26, 1986: In the worst nuclear accident in the history of nuclear power, fires and explosions resulting from an unauthorized experiment at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant near Kiev, USSR (now in Ukraine), left at least 31 dead in the immediate aftermath and spread radioactive material over much of Europe. An estimated 1,35,000 people were evacuated from the region.

Jan. 6, 1986: A cylinder of nuclear material burst after being improperly heated at a Kerr-McGee plant at Gore, Oklahoma, U.S.A. One worker died; 100 were hospitalized.

Apr. 25, 1981: Some 100 workers were exposed to radiation during repairs of a nuclear plant at Tsuruga, Japan.

Feb. 11, 1981: 8 workers were contaminated when 100,000 gallons of radioactive coolant fluid leaked into containment

building of TVA's Sequoyah 1 plant in Tennessee, U.S.A.

Mar. 28, 1979: The worst commercial nuclear accident in the U.S. occurred as equipment failures and human mistakes led to a loss of coolant and a partial core meltdown at the Three Mile Island reactor in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Mar. 22, 1975: Fire at the Brown's Ferry reactor in Decatur, Alabama, U.S.A., caused dangerously lowering of cooling water levels.

Jan. 21, 1969: A coolant malfunction from an experimental underground reactor at Lucens Vad, Switzerland, released radiation into a cavern, which was then sealed.

Oct. 5, 1966: A sodium cooling system malfunction caused a partial core meltdown at the Enrico Fermi demonstration breeder reactor, near Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. Radiation Contained.

Jan. 3, 1961: A reactor at a federal installation near Idaho Falls, Idaho, U.S.A., killed 3 workers. Radiation contained.

Oct. 7, 1957: A fire in the Windscale plutonium production reactor N of Liverpool, England, released radioactive material; later blamed for 39 cancer deaths.

Women Members in Parliaments

Country	Women MPs	Total MPs
1. Rwanda, 2003	39	80
2. Sweden, 2002	158	349
3. Norway, 2005	64	169
4. Finland, 2003	75	200

5. Denmark, 2005	66	179
6. Netherlands, 2003	55	150
7. Cuba, 2003	219	609
8. Spain, 2004	126	350
9. Costa Rica, 2006	20	57
10. Argentina, 2005	90	257

As on February 27, 2006.

Deposits in Scheduled Commercial Banks in India

2006

(Amount in Rs. lakh)

Region/State U.T	No. of Offices	Savings		Total	
		No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts*	Amount
Rural					
Northern Region	4,724	15230,887	21632,78	2105,311	49855,17
North-Eastern Region	1,188	3795,467	3364,40	4986,247	6599,95
Eastern Region	7,219	23490,504	24354,49	31900,380	48140,21
Central Region	7,529	31,301,159	29017,50	38380,416	53485,15
Western Region	3,616	10678,936	9672,94	14131,452	25974,28
Southern Region	6,334	21520,432	14351,13	29116,429	42006,43
All India	30,610	106017,385	102393,24	139570,235	226061,18
Semi Urban					
Northern Region	2,126	12459,341	21358,94	16849,739	46422,43
North-Eastern Region	4,29	2440,143	4847,85	3407,913	11594,91
Eastern Region	1,896	11422,403	20922,79	15626,366	41309,10
Central Region	2,641	16474,294	24474,45	21429,290	47861,01
Western Region	2,262	12753,901	16867,29	17593,708	48363,96
Southern Region	6,117	32789,250	36238,22	46756,808	106661,39
All India	15,471	88339,332	124709,54	121663,824	302212,81
Urban / Metropolitan					
Northern Region	4,971	30893,286	86717,91	45397,761	396312,05
North-Eastern Region	332	1944,107	5316,84	2997,943	14839,47
Eastern Region	3,193	19803,257	45773,27	30383,127	148503,75
Central Region	3,934	23941,876	54332,24	35684,456	150970,30
Western Region	5,118	33778,190	87154,36	52655,719	533918,75
Southern Region	7,147	38700,778	80506,96	56744,706	318355,33
All India	24,695	149061,494	359801,59	223863,712	1562502,25

* includes Savings, Current and Term

Prepared by: G. Sankar

Plays of William Shakespeare

Title (in order of composition) Principal Characters

Henry VI part 1	Henry, Talbot	As You Like It	Rosalind, Orlando
Henry VI part 2	Henry, Margaret	Twelfth Night	Orsino, Viola, Olivia
Henry VI part 3	Henry, Margaret	Hamlet, Prince of Denmark	Hamlet, Ophelia
Titus Andronicus	Titus, Aaron	The Merry Wives of Windsor	Falstaff, Ford
Richard III	Richard, Clarence	Troilus and Cressida	Troilus, Cressida
The Comedy of Errors	Antipholus, Dromio	All's Well That Ends Well	Bertram, Helena
Love's Labour's Lost	Ferdin, Berowne	Measure For measure	Vincentio, Angelo
The Two Gentlemen of Verona	Valentine, Proteus	Othello	Othello, Iago, Desdemona
The Taming of the Shrew	Petruchio, Katherine	King Lear	Lear, Cordelia, Regan, Gloucester, Goneril
Richard II	Richard, Bolingbroke	Macbeth	Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo
Romeo and Juliet	Romeo, Juliet	Antony and Cleopatra	Antony, Cleopatra
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Oberon, Titania	Coriolanus	Coriolanus, Volumnia
King John	John, Arthur	Timon of Athens	Timon, Apemantus
The Merchant of Venice	Antonio, Shylock	Pericles, Prince of Tyre	Pericles, Marina
Henry IV Part 1	Henry, Hal, Hotspur	Cymbeline	Imogen, Iachimo
Henry IV Part 2	Henry, Falstaff, Hal	The Winter's Tale	Leontes, Perdita
Much Ado About Nothing	Beatrice, Benedick	The Tempest	Prospero, Miranda
Henry V	Henry, Pistol	Henry VIII	Henry, Catherine
Julius Caesar	Brutus, Antony		

Animals: Intelligence and Size

Chimpanzee is next to man in intelligence. A chimpanzee's brain weighs 44 kg.

Findings of Edward O. Wilson, Professor of Zoology at Harvard University, who observed animal intelligence, and measured learning performance over a wide range of tasks, taking account of the animal's brain size.

1. Human
2. Chimpanzee
3. Gorilla
4. Orang-utan
5. Baboon
6. Gibbon

The Biggest Animals

Class	Animal	Length
Fish	Whale shark	18 m.
Land mammal	African elephant	4 m.
Sea mammal	Blue whale	33.5 m.
Mollusc	Atlantic giant squid	6.1 m.
Reptile	Asian saltwater crocodile	10 m.
Amphibian	Chinese giant salamander	1.8 m.
Bird	Ostrich	2.75 m.
Crustacean	Japanese spider crab	2.75 m.
Arachnid	Indian scorpion	29.2 cm.
Insect	Goliath beetle	11 cm.

Countries	(+/- IST) Hours				
		Ghana	(-) 5.30	Pakistan	(-) 0.30
		Gibraltar	(-) 4.30	Panama	(-) 10.30
		Greece	(-) 3.30	Papua New Guinea	(+) 4.30
Afghanistan	(-) 1.30	Grenada	(-) 9.30	Paraguay	(-) 9.30
Albania	(-) 4.30	Guatemala	(-) 11.30	Peru	(-) 10.30
Algeria	(-) 4.30	Guyana	(-) 8.30	Philippines	(+) 2.30
Antilles	(-) 9.30	Haiti	(-) 10.30	Poland	(-) 4.30
Argentina	(-) 8.30	Honduras	(-) 11.30	Portugal	(-) 5.30
Australia	(+) 2.30/(-) 4.30	Hong Kong	(-) 2.30	Porto Rica	(-) 9.30
Austria	(-) 4.30	Hungary	(-) 4.30	Qatar	(-) 2.30
Bahamas	(-) 10.30	Iceland	(-) 5.30	Romania	(-) 3.30
Bahrain	(-) 2.30	Indonesia	(-) 1.30/3.30	Russia	(-) (2.30) — (+) 5.30
Bangladesh	(-) 0.30	Iran	(-) 2.00	Saudi Arabia	(-) 2.30
Barbados	(-) 9.30	Iraq	(-) 2.30	Senegal	(-) 5.30
Belgium	(-) 4.30	Ireland	(-) 5.30	Seychelles	(-) 1.30
Belize	(-) 11.30	Italy	(-) 4.30	Sierra Leone	(-) 5.30
Benin	(-) 4.30	Ivory Coast	(-) 5.30	Singapore	(-) 2.30
Bermuda	(-) 9.30	Jamaica	(-) 10.30	Somalia	(-) 2.30
Bolivia	(-) 9.30	Japan	(+) 3.30	Spain	(-) 4.30
Botswana	(-) 3.30	Jordan	(-) 3.30	Sri Lanka	(Indian Time)
Brazil	(-) 8.30	Kenya	(-) 2.30	Sudan	(-) 3.30
Brunei	(-) 2.30	Korea (South)	(+) 3.30	Suriname	(-) 8.30
Bulgaria	(-) 2.30	Kuwait	(-) 2.30	Swaziland	(-) 3.30
Burkina Faso	(-) 5.30	Lebanon	(-) 3.30	Sweden	(-) 4.30
Cameroon	(-) 4.30	Liberia	(-) 5.30	Switzerland	(-) 4.30
Canada	(-) 9/14.30	Liechtenstein	(-) 3.30	Syria	(-) 3.30
Yemen Islands	(-) 10.30	Luxembourg	(-) 4.30	Taiwan	(+) 2.30
Cent. African Republic	(-) 4.30	Malawi	(-) 3.30	Tanzania	(-) 2.30
Chad	(-) 4.30	Malaysia	(+) 2.30	Thailand	(+) 1.30
Chile	(-) 9.30	Maldives	(-) 0.30	Tonga	(+) 7.30
China	(+) 2.30	Mali	(-) 5.30	Trinidad and Tobago	(-) 9.30
Colombia	(-) 10.30	Malta	(-) 4.30	Tunisia	(-) 4.30
Congo	(-) 4.30	Marshall Islands	(+) 6.30	Turkey	(-) 2.30
Costa Rica	(-) 11.30	Mexico	(-) 11.30	Uganda	(-) 2.30
Cuba	(-) 10.30	Micronesia	(-) 3.30/5.30	United Arab Emirates	(-) 1.30
Czech Republic	(-) 4.30	Montserrat	(-) 9.30	UK	(-) 5.30
Denmark	(-) 4.30	Morocco	(-) 5.30	Uruguay	(-) 8.30
Djibouti	(-) 2.30	Mozambique	(-) 3.30	Vanuatu	(-) 5.30
Dominican Islands	(-) 9.30	Myanmar	(+) 1.00	Vatican City	(-) 4.30
Dominican Republic	(-) 9.30	Namibia	(-) 3.30	Venezuela	(-) 9.30
Ecuador	(-) 10.30	Nauru	(+) 6.30	Yemen	(-) 2.30
Egypt	(-) 3.30	Nepal	(+) 0.00	Yugoslavia	(-) 4.30
Ethiopia	(-) 2.30	Netherlands	(-) 4.30	Zaire	(-) 4.30
Fiji	(+) 6.30	New Zealand	(-) 6.30	Zambia	(-) 3.30
Finland	(-) 3.30	Nicaragua	(-) 11.30	Zimbabwe	(-) 2.30
France	(-) 4.30	Niger	(-) 5.30	USA	(4 Time Zones)
Gambia	(-) 5.30	Nigeria	(-) 4.30	New York	(-) 10.30
Germany	(-) 4.30	Norway	(-) 4.30	Texas	(-) 11.30
		Oman	(-) 1.30	Phoenix	(-) 12.30
				San Francisco	(-) 13.30
				Hawai (USA)	(-) 16.00

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Subroto Bagchi	: Go Kiss the World
Paul Roberts	: The End of Food (author of 'The End of Oil)
Niall Ferguson	: The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World.
Thomas Friedman	: Hot, Flat and Crowded
Cliff Richard	: My Life, My Way
Tim Butcher	: Blood River: A Journey to Africa's Broken Heart
Ian McEwan	: On Chesil Beach
Gulzar	: Selected Poems, translated by Pavan K. Varma
Fernando Morais	: The Magus (Paulo Coelho's biography)

High Courts: Jurisdiction and Seat

Name	Year	Territorial Jurisdiction	Seat
Allahabad	1866	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad (Bench at Lucknow)
Andhra Pradesh	1954	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Bombay	1862	Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Mumbai (Benches at Nagpur, Panaji and Aurangabad)
Calcutta	1862	West Bengal	Kolkata (Circuit Bench at Port Blair)
Chhattisgarh	2000	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
Delhi	1966	Delhi	Delhi
Guwahati ¹	1948	Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati (Benches at Kohima, Aizawl, Imphal, Shillong, Agartala and Itanagar)
Gujarat	1960	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
Himachal Pradesh	1971	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
Jammu and Kashmir	1928	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar and Jammu
Karnataka ²	1884	Karnataka	Bangalore
Kerala	1956	Kerala and Lakshadweep	Ernakulam
Madhya Pradesh	1956	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur (Benches at Gwalior and Indore)
Madras	1862	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Chennai (Bench at Madurai)
Orissa	1948	Orissa	Cuttack
Patna	1916	Bihar	Patna
Punjab and Haryana ³	1966	Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Rajasthan	1949	Rajasthan	Jodhpur (Bench at Jaipur)
Sikkim	1975	Sikkim	Gangtok
Uttaranchal	2000	Uttarakhand	Nainital

Originally known as Assam High Court, renamed as Guwahati High Court in 1971.

Originally known as Mysore High Court, renamed as Karnataka High Court in 1973.

Originally known as Punjab High Court, renamed as Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1966.

Obsession With Numerology

Actor Jim Carrey became obsessed with numerology while making The Number 23. He changed the name of his production company to JC23, citing among other reasons, the earth's 23-degree tilt, the 23 seconds it takes for blood to circulate around the body, and his birth at 2:30 a.m. The movie DVD contains 23 chapters and was released on July 23 last year.

Women Governors in India (1947-2008)

No. Name	Period	State
1. Sarojini Naidu	15.08.1947 - 02.03.1949	United Provinces/UP
2. Padmaja Naidu	03.11.1956 - 01.06.1967	West Bengal
3. Vijayalakshmi Pandit	27.11.1962 - 05.09.1963	
	18.12.1963 - 08.10.1964	Maharashtra
4. Sharada Mukherjee	05.05.1977 - 14.08.1978	Andhra Pradesh
	14.08.1978 - 06.08.1983	Gujarat
5. Jyothi Venkatachalam	14.10.1977 - 27.10.1982	Kerala
6. Kumudben Joshi	26.11.1985 - 07.02.1990	Andhra Pradesh
7. Ram Dulari Sinha	23.02.1988 - 12.02.1990	Kerala
8. Serla Grewal	31.03.1989 - 06.02.1990	Madhya Pradesh
9. Chandrawati	19.02.1990 - 19.12.1990	Pondicherry(UT)
10. Rajendrakumari Bajpayi	02.05.1995 - 23.04.1998	Pondicherry(UT)
11. Sheila Kaul	17.11.1995 - 23.04.1996	Himachal Pradesh
12. Justice M. Fathima Beevi	25.01.1997 - 01.07.2001	Tamilnadu
13. V.S. Rama Devi	26.07.1997 - 02.12.1999	Himachal Pradesh
	02.12.1999 - 10.08.2002	Karnataka
14. Rajani Rai	23.04.1998 - 31.07.2002	Pondicherry(UT)
15. Pratibha Patil	08.11.2004 - 21.06.2007	Rajasthan
16. Prabha Rau	19.07.2008	Himachal Pradesh

Deaths Attributed to Nature

India 2006		
Sl. Causes	Total % age to Total Deaths	
1. Avalanche	18	0.1
2. Cold and Exposure	694	3.2
3. Cyclone/Tornado	96	0.4
4. Starvation / Thirst	174	0.8
5. Earthquake	8	0.0
6. Epidemic	76	0.4
7. Flood	1097	5.1
8. Heat Stroke	754	3.5
9. Landslide	274	1.3
10. Lightning	2387	11.1
11. Torrential Rains	259	1.2
12. Other Causes		
Attributable to Nature	15665	72.9
Total	21502	100.0

Spells of inflation

The worst spells of inflation India has experienced since independence	
1974-75	25.2
1973-74	20.2
1980-81	18.2
1979-80	17.1
1966-67	13.9
1956-57	13.8
1991-92	13.7
1994-95	12.6
1967-68	11.6
1964-65	11.0
1990-91	10.3
1992-93	10.1
1972-73	10.0

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Union Public Service Commission

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Fax: 23381125

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
(TRAI)

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The National Commission for Scheduled
Castes & Scheduled Tribes

Chairman, V Floor,
Loknaya Bhawan,
Khan Market, New Delhi 110 003
Tel : 24624714 Fax : 24625378
Chairman's Tel: 24632298, 24620435
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The Employees' Provident Fund, India
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The Central Provident Fund Commis-
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E-mail: cpfc@alpha.nic.in

Central Vigilance Commission
Satarkta Bhavan, GPO Complex, INA
New Delhi - 1100023
Tel : 24651001-8 Fax: 24618213
E-mail: cvc@alpha.nic.in

National Commission for Women
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Sangeet Natak Academy
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Website: www.mha.nic.in

Central Bureau of Investigation

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National Human Rights Commission

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SPORTS

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Darsanas

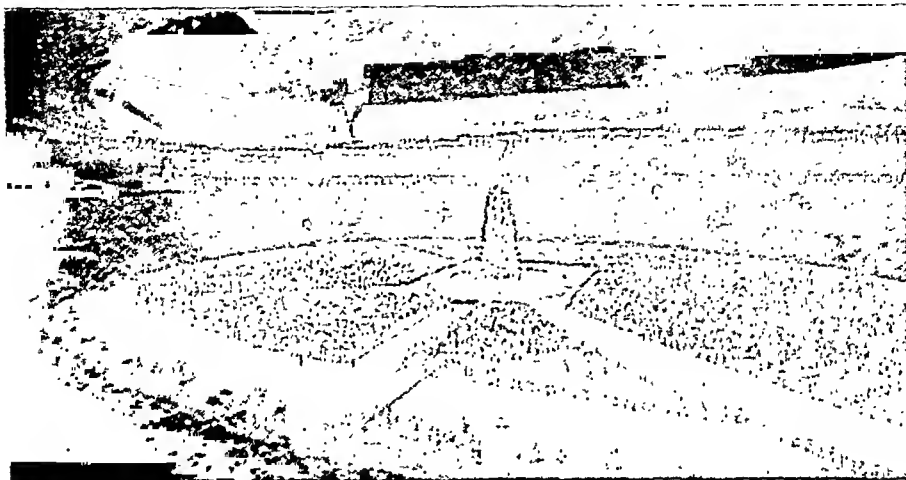
The six most famous Darsanas are:

Name	Propounder	Basic
1. Samkhya	Kapila	Samkhyasutra
2. Vaisesika	Kanadan	Vaseshikasutra
3. Nyaya	Gautama	Nyayasutra
4. Yoga	Patanjali	Yogasutra
5. Poorva Memamsa	Jaimini	Meemamsa Sutra
6. Uttara Memamsa	Vyasa	BrahmaSutra

While Uttara Meemamsa is also called Vedanta Darsana, Nyaya has another name Anweshiki. Sankhya is the oldest Darsana. Swami Vivekananda named Yoga as RajaYoga.

the pool and the athletics track respectively. Phelps undoubtedly was the king of the pool. Just 23, Phelps won eight gold medals with seven world records to show, surpassing Mark Spitz's 1972 Munich Games record of seven gold medals in one Games. Overall Phelps improved his tally of gold medals to an Olympic record 14, five more than anyone else in the Games' 112-year history. New milestones were also the order in athletics at the Birds Nest as the venue was called, what with Bolt scripting an incredible

ish cyclist Chris Hoy, Australian swimmer Stephanie Rice and Chinese gymnast Zou Kai. But no Olympics can be without its darker side, more so in the modern age. Expectedly drug-related problems surfaced and of the six doping offences none was more poignant than that of Ukraine's Lyudmila Blonska, who was stripped of her heptathlon silver. Being a second time offender Blonska is in line for a life ban. In the arena things tended to go out of hand in taekwondo with allegations of poor judging touching the



The closing ceremony

three-gold-three-world record spree. His 9.69s in the 100m was followed by 19.30s dash in the 200m and then came the team effort of 37.10s which he was a part of, in the 4 x100. Other three-gold medal winners of the Games were Brit-

peak when Cuba's Angel Matos decided to land a kick on the referee's face to be banned from the sport. Experts say this one act of indiscretion could even see the sport being excluded from the list of Olympic disciplines

Really Unique

Vijay Amritraj did what others couldn't do. He was on the front page of the *The New York Times* in 1973 when he reached the quarter finals at Wimbledon and the US Open. He was just 20. He was taking on Rod Laver, his hero. At the end of his career, he had 16 singles and 13 doubles titles, and the highest singles ranking of No.16 to his credit. He has beaten JohnMcEnroe, Bjorn Borg and Rod Laver once each, and Jimmy Connors five times.

The Great Show at Beijing

Partab Ramchand
Chennai

grand spectacle to start with and a touching finale to sign off, Beijing Olympic Games 2008 will be etched in Olympic history as one of the best conducted. And this is saying something about China's overall show, considering the



Beijing 2008

uncertainties that hung on the eve of the Games, thanks to the Tibet issue, the security matters during the fortnight-long programme and not least the weather and pollution conditions in the Chinese capital.

In the end it was China, the third Asian country after Japan (1964) and Korea (1988) to host an Olympics, which had

the last laugh, for if there was one big success story in this edition then it had to be China's majestic show, winning 51 gold medals in its tally of 100 to top the table, ahead of super power USA which had a higher overall tally (110) but only 36 gold medals. Russia placed next with 72 followed by Britain (47), its best haul in a century, something that should augur well for the country when it hosts the Games next in London in 2012. For China to have such a success in the midst of participants from 204 nations its efforts needed to be recorded in golden words. China also became only the third nation other than the US and the Soviet Union to top the Olympic medal table, following Britain in 1908 and Germany 1936, both also hosts at the time. China also won at least one medal in 26 sports, just one short of the 27 mark set by the Soviet Union at the boycott-marred 1980 Moscow Games. Even in glory though, China had its moments of disappointment nothing more intense than Liu Xiang's tragic exit through injury in his pet 110m hurdles and that virtually put the country's show in athletics in a shadow. The various arenas were also witness to some outstanding performances that produced 43 world records and over a hundred other records. Indeed American Michael Phelps and Jamaican Usain Bolt deservedly cornered much attention by their grand stand shows in

Compatriots Win

At the 34th Berlin Marathon in 2007, there were two winners from Ethiopia--Haile Gebreselassie and Gete Wami. The former was the fastest male runner (2 hr 4 min 26 sec). Gete Wami was the winner of the first women's championship.

India at Beijing

The Beijing Olympics certainly answered the one BIG question that invariably crops up at every sports forum, not least the Olympics: "Can a country of a billion population ever win a gold medal in the Olympics?" Forget for the moment the exploits of the gold-winning hockey teams, the one big saviour all these years. The last time India struck gold (overall eight) in hockey was in the 1980 Moscow Games and this time the country did not even get a berth for the

Games. The three medals won, one a gold, provided enough reason for the euphoria that has engulfed the country post-Olympics. Undoubtedly the Beijing Games has been a milestone for Indian sports and the gains have far greater significance than what the Indian cricketers have brought from time to time to increase its fan base in the country. To that extent Abhinav Bindra (the gold medal winner in the 10m rifle shooting), Sushil Kumar (bronze medal winner in 66kg category in wrestling) and Vijender Singh (bronze medalist in 75kg category in boxing) have by their phenomenal

show virtually laid the path for a sports revolution. If there is one belief that the three have raised, it is that "Indians can do it". Before them, post-Independence India had other Olympic medalists to do the country proud like wrestler KD Jadhav (1952), tennis ace Leander Paes

(1996), weight-lifter Karnam Malleswari (2000) (all bronze medals) and double trap shooter Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (2004) (silver medal). What India had lacked was an individual gold



The Indian Team

and the cool and collected Bindra provided the answer for that with a tremendous show of self-assurance in those final moments when he jumped from fourth spot to the gold medal slot. Even to a lay Indian totally divested from the sport world, that seemed an epoch making moment to warrant a note of happiness. What was praiseworthy was not only the performance of the medal winners but the efforts of a few others to reach a new high in their career. Like Akhil Kumar in boxing who dislodged world champion Sergey Vodopoyanov in the pre-quarter-final before exiting, Jitender Kumar, also

A Badminton Mini Grand slam

Prakash Padukone is the first Indian to attain a world No.1 ranking in any racket sport. He won the Danish open, the Swedish Open and the All England Championship in 1980 - a badminton mini grand slam.

Olympic Medal Tally

Country	G	S	B	Total
China	51	21	28	100
United States	36	38	36	110
Russia	23	21	28	72
Great Britain	19	13	15	47
Germany	16	10	15	41
Australia	14	15	17	46
South Korea	13	10	8	31
Japan	9	6	10	25
Italy	8	10	10	28
France	7	16	17	40
Ukraine	7	5	15	27
Netherlands	7	5	4	16
Jamaica	6	3	2	11
Spain	5	10	3	18
Kenya	5	5	4	14
Belarus	4	5	10	19
Romania	4	1	3	8
Ethiopia	4	1	2	7
Canada	3	9	6	18
Poland	3	6	1	10
Hungary	3	5	2	10
Norway	3	5	2	10
Brazil	3	4	8	15
Czech Republic	3	3	0	6
Slovakia	3	2	1	6
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Georgia	3	0	3	6
Cuba	2	11	11	24
Kazakhstan	2	4	7	13
Denmark	2	2	3	7
Mongolia	2	2	0	4
Thailand	2	2	0	4
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Argentina	2	0	4	6
Switzerland	2	0	4	6
Mexico	2	0	1	3
Turkey	1	4	3	8
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Finland	1	1	2	4

Latvia	1	1	1	3
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	2
Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
Belgium	1	1	0	2
India	1	0	2	3
Iran	1	0	1	2
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Sweden	0	4	1	5
Croatia	0	2	3	5
Lithuania	0	2	3	5
Greece	0	2	2	4
Trinidad & Tobago	0	2	0	2
Nigeria	0	1	3	4
Ireland	0	1	2	3
Serbia	0	1	2	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Morocco	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Bahamas	0	1	1	2
Sudan	0	1	0	1
Iceland	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Armenia	0	0	6	6
Chinese Taipei	0	0	4	4
Togo	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1

This being the first major limited overs competition since the triumph in the Twenty20 World Cup it was only natural that the accent was on youth. This proved to be the right decision for the fielding was swifter and the running between wickets quicker. In the preliminary stage Australia expectedly got off to a flier and booked a berth in the final early in the campaign. But with Sri Lanka faltering India too were able to qualify for the title clash without many anxious moments. With a tally of 18 points obtained from three wins, three losses and two no results India finished second to Australia who finished with 26 points while Sri Lanka languished at the bottom with ten points.

The stage was set for a thrilling best-of-three final. Even if the odds were in Australia's favour it was taken for granted that India would not go down as tamely as they did on previous occasions. But Indian cricket fans were in for a very pleasant surprise for not only did India win the series for the first time they did it in style winning by a clearcut 2-0 margin. They won the first final by six wickets and the second by nine runs exposing chinks in Australia's armour. It was a truly creditable triumph over a team that has won the World Cup three times in a row.

With all the emphasis on youth India's hero in the finals was the battle-scarred Sachin Tendulkar. With scores of 117 not out and 91 the master batsman played the inspirational role. Tendulkar in fact



Sachin Tendulkar

finished the competition with 399 runs the second best aggregate after Gautam Gambhir. The left-hander from Delhi was a revelation exceeding the highest expectations by running up a tally of 440 runs with two hundreds. Mahendra Singh Dhoni besides leading the side in his inimitable cool and methodical manner was also among the runs with a tally of 347 runs. These three were the top run getters in the tournament. There was support too from Rohit Sharma and Yuvraj Singh and they made up for the failures of Robin Uthappa and Virender Sehwag. The four-man regular attack of Ishant Sharma, Sreesanth, Irfan Pathan and Harbhajan Singh kept the run-hungry Aussie batsman on a leash and the unheralded Praveen Kumar was an unexpected success with the ball.

Australia with Ricky Ponting and Andrew Symonds woefully out of touch were over-dependant on Mike Hussey, Matthew Hayden, Michael Clarke and Adam Gilchrist. The bowlers Brett Lee, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Brad Hogg and Mitchell Johnson could not pose many problems to a determined Indian batting line-up. The loss of the series also marked a quiet and sudden end to the distinguished career of Gilchrist.

The Doctor

'William Gilbert Grace, the British cricketer, is known as 'the Doctor' in cricketing circles. Grace was a medical practitioner and is still regarded as the greatest all rounder the game has ever known. In his long career, he scored 54896 runs including 126 centuries.

boxing and little but gritty
 na Nehwal who became
 the first Indian to enter the
 quarterfinal round in badmin-
 ton. Saina even
 claimed some
 points away
 from a bronze
 medal against
 world No 16
 Maria Kristin
 Liandi of Indo-
 nesia when she



The medal winners who did India proud

11-3 in the deciding third game of
 the quarterfinal but there the fight end-
 ed. The Indian however has shown that
 the promise remains perhaps to materi-
 zed into a medal at the next Games in
 London. Still the application displayed
 these game fighters and their will to
 win hinted at the level of their prepara-
 tions and hard work for that one sole
 goal of bringing laurels to the country.

Disappointments for India
 at the Olympics are nothing
 new. This time it started even
 before the contingent left for
 Beijing with Ma-
 nipuri Monika
 Devi, the lone
 weightlifter se-
 lected getting
 dropped over
 curious doping
 charges. That
 it raged into a

major controversy is a different matter. At
 the Games the athletes, swimmers, table
 tennis players and even tennis stars Ma-
 hesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes had little
 to inspire. Nothing personified the disas-
 ter better than medal-hoper Anju Bobby
 George failing to even qualify in the long
 jump after fouling all her three attempts.
 As for others, having participated seemed
 to be the passport to contentment.

CB Series Triumph

few gave India any chance of win-
 ning the Commonwealth Bank Series
 Crown Under. For one thing their op-
 ponents were Australia and Sri Lanka.
 Secondly India had never won the tra-
 ditional one day competition held every
 year for almost 30 years at the end of the
 test series. In five previous attempts In-
 dia had not even qualified for the best of
 three finals in 1980-81 and 1999-2000.

On three other occasions in 1985-86,
 1991-92 and 2003-04 they had made it
 to the title clash but had lost every time
 to the hosts by a 2-0 margin. Moreover
 Australia had a formidable record in
 the competition. In the 29 years since
 the series was launched in, 1979-80 in
 the wake of Kerry Packer. World Series
 Cricket the hosts had clearly been the
 dominant team winning it 18 times.

The most valuable player

The most valuable player Dirk Nowitzki of Germany has the honour of being the first
 European player in the NBA regular season. He was playing for the Dallas Mavericks
 (2006-07 season). Tony Parker of France was the most valuable player of NBA finals,
 2007.

Euro 2008

For long Spain was known for its finest football league but was never a force in World football. All that ended at the Happel stadium in Vienna when it

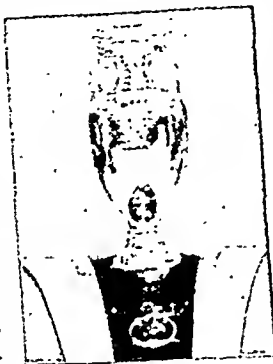
dedged Germany for the title in Euro 2008. It was a 1-0 margin, courtesy Fernando Torres, but the effort gave Spain the title after 44 years. Prior to the crucial match, the focus seemed to be on the tough playing Germans led by Michael Ballack. The Germans's physical overdrive notwithstanding it was Spain's midfield that dominated as the title match unfolded. Cesc Fabregas, Xavi

Hernandes, Iniesta and Sergio Ramos proved a vibrant bunch. Their speedy movement and offensive intent were enough to make a devastating impact. A reflection of that came when Xavi provided that wonderful pass for Torres to finish with a tenacious run.

Poor Ballack continued to be bogged down by ill luck. Despite not being on par in fitness he played and had a decent game. But his domineering role was missed, leaving the hugely talented German to rue his continuing bad luck in world football. Ballack's record in big finals reads like this: runner up in the 2002 and 2008 Champions League finals, suspended for the 2002 World Cup final and runner-up in the Euro 2008

final. Truth to tell, Germany did not impress this time around. The team's progress was significant. They stopped Portugal, lost to Croatia, was lucky to

get past Turkey but looked average against Poland and Austria. Spain in comparison was a revelation. Ball possession, short passes, imaginative through balls backed by solid defence made it a complete outfit. The all important goal from Torres came as he out-hustled Phillip Lahm for a through ball and chipped it over Jens Lehmann who had charged out. Torres could not have



Euro Cup

stamped his

reputation as a natural goal-scorer more authoritatively. Credit has also to go to the Spanish coach Luis Aragones, who observers felt did all the right moves. With star player David Villa injured he decided on a five man midfield and that choked Germany's moves. The difference lay there and then Torres stamped it with his superb charge.

Spain's showing in the semi-final was equally facile as it swept aside the in-form Russia, a team inspired by Andrei Arshavin's grand display till then. Having lost 1-4 in the group league, Russia went down 0-3 in the penultimate round with Xavi, (sub) Daniel Guiza and David Silva doing the damage. Russia's wonder

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is a District in the Greater London Borough of Merton. It is the location of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. International championships have been held there since 1877.

Chess Triumph

Abhijeet, Harika complete golden sweep
Viswanathan Anand's exploits over the two decades ever since he became the first GM in 1987 has inspired a new generation of chess players. Thanks mainly to him, India has made great strides in the world of chess but perhaps even he himself could not have imagined that Indian players would complete a golden sweep of the World junior chess championship. And yet this is what Abhijeet Gupta and Konavalli Harika did in Gaziantep (Turkey) by a happy coincidence on Independence Day by winning the boys and girls titles in one of the most prestigious tournaments in the chess world. In fact Abhijeet (10 points) and Parimarjan Negi (9.5) made it an unprecedented 1-2 for India. In the 13th and final round Abhijeet scored a spectacular top-board victory over British contender David Howell while Negi drew with German Arik Braun in 44 moves to ensure himself of a medal. Abhijeet, Howell and Negi shared the lead after winning the penultimate rounds to set up a pulsating



Viswanathan Anand

finish. Abhijeet playing black won his fifth game on the trot by defeating Howell in 32 moves. Among the girls top seed Harika expectedly claimed the title with a tally of 10.5 points. She was assured of the title after defeating Narmin Kazimova of Azerbaijan in the 12th and penultimate round. In the last round she played a 12-game draw with Katerina Nemcova of the Czech Republic. Abhijeet who hails from Bhilwara joined Anand and P. Hari Krishna (2004) as the Indian winners of the world junior chess title. Harika emulated her Andhra teammate Koneru Humpy (2001) as the girls champion. Harika had won the world

under-18 title in 2006. Negi is the first Indian silver medalist in the Open section where Surya Sekhar Ganguly won a bronze in 2002. Humpy (silver in 2002) and Eesha Karavade (bronze in 2004) are the other Indian medalists in the premier championship. A delighted All India Chess Federation president N. Srinivasan immediately announced an award of Rs one lakh each for Abhijeet and Harika while the 15-year-old Negi was rewarded with Rs 50,000.

Lord's

Lord's cricket ground is the world's most famous. It is owned by the Marylebone Cricket Club. Situated in St. John's Wood, London, it was founded by Thomas Lord in Dorset Square and was moved to its present site in 1814. Since 1877, it has been the home of the Middlesex County Cricket Club.

football) the young player set up a frenzy in the stands and then appropriately the statesman of the side, Bhaichung Bhutia completed the argument with a touch of class and India completed a 4-1 win. Coming at a time when the nation was rejoicing over Abhinav Bindra's gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, the joy from the success in the AFC Challenge Cup was rather muted but there is no denying the extent of the gain from this win in what is termed as the tournament for the lesser lights of Asian football. India thus earned a direct entry into AFC Asian Cup final round in 2011 in Qatar where it will mingle with the heavyweights of Asia like Japan, Korea and China among others. Whatever be the outcome there, at least India has a target in sight and the time to prepare. It was 24 years ago that India last qualified for the Asian Cup tourney. The AFC Challenge Cup witnessed curious twists but nothing as significant as a change of venue necessitated for the final after Hyderabad's Gachibowli stadium turned unplayable thanks to torrential rain. The organizers had no other option but to seek a shift of venue and New Delhi became the acceptable choice. Eight teams took part in this event _Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, DPR Korea Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka apart from India and they were placed in two groups. In the semifinals Tajikistan scored a memorable win over strong Korea while India edged past Myanmar for the passage to the final. The win brought with it accolades and financial rewards to the tune of Rs 30 lakh to the team members and officials. Coach Houghton was praised for turning India around. It is a different matter that India lost to Maldives in the SAFF Cup final earlier but the chief reason for that was injuries to some key players. Overall the feeling among players is one of happiness and a positive attitude under Houghton, who came to India with the reputation of having contributed in the improvement of the game in China. Chuni Goswami, who had captained the country to a gold medal in the 1962 Asian Games, believed that the Indian team had shown that it could recapture the country's past glory on the international stage. IM Vijayan felt the final against Tajikistan was one of the best matches India had played in a long time. The former India striker was also quick to add that Houghton was doing a great job.

Force India

Every fan of motor sport in India (and there are a sizeable number) has been hoping to see the country making a foray into F1 racing. Narain Karthikeyan fulfilled this dream, partly though becoming the first Indian in F1 Grand Prix, but couldn't remain in the reckoning after his 2005 debut. He had to settle

for a test driver's seat after that. But one Indian entrepreneur fulfilled this dream of motor sport buffs in the country. And of course Vijay Mallya always dreams big. In 2007 he became the first Indian ever to own a Formula One Team, Force India F1, adding yet another feather to his cap. Mallya has had a longstanding

coach the irrepressible Guus Hiddink for once could not get the magic going as earlier. Germany on the other hand had to grapple a never-say-die opponent in Turkey, a side which seemed to specialize on last gasp goals for remarkable comeback victories. Only, this time the efforts met with a more than matching response from Germany, though the contest was a heart-stopper all the way. Ugur Boral had put Turkey ahead which Bastian Schweinsteiger neutralized. With 11 minutes remaining, Miroslav Klose put Germany ahead again only to see Semih Senturk come up with a breath-taking equaliser. This time the last gasp effort was reserved for Germany, courtesy Philipp Lahm.

The quadrennial event, a showpiece programme in Europe, hosted this time jointly by Austria and Switzerland had 16 teams in the fray after the elimina-

tions. Such is the level of competition that England did not find a place. The teams were Czech Republic, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey (Group A), Austria, Croatia, Germany, Poland (Group B), France, Italy, Netherlands, Romania (Group C), Greece, Russia, Spain and Sweden (Group D). Early proceedings gave the impression of a Dutch charge while Cristiano Ronaldo held promise for Portugal, Russia impressed with its total football's concept of Coach Hiddink and Italy had begun to warm up. However at the quarterfinal stage, things took a dramatic turn. Spain edged Italy via the penalties (4-2), Russia shocked Netherlands 3-1 in a match that heralded a new star in Arshavin, Turkey out shot Croatia 3-1 (1-1 at regular time) while Germany exited Portugal 3-2. The rest, as they say, is history.

Football Triumph

Indian footballers could well be seeking the Ambedkar stadium in New Delhi for all their international matches. The success in the AFC Challenge Cup gives rise to this belief. It was at the same venue last year that India had another of its title-wins _ in the Nehru Cup. The latest win was one of most convincing shows that Indian footballers put up on home soil. The English coach of the Indian team Bob Houghton was keen that the tournament should be held in

a place and ambience which suited the home team. After the Nehru cup success before a packed gallery, Houghton was convinced New Delhi had to be the venue for Indian matches because of the kind of public support that could be an inspiration to the home side. With 20,000 rooting for the Indians, an inspired Sunil Chettri led the victory march over the reigning champion Tajikistan. Scoring three goals (even if not in a row, but considered a hat trick in

FIFA Grows

In 1921, 21 national football associations were already affiliated to the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In the year of the first World Cup (1930) there were 41 members.

making a triumphant debut in 1928. Britain, gold medallists in 1988, scored two early goals and shattered the hopes of every Indian hockey fan, looking for a revival under coach Joachim Carvalho. India's debacle in that tournament came after a decent performance earlier in the six-team competition which also featured hosts Chile, Austria, Russia and Mexico. Ashley Jackson set up the first for Barry Middleton in the fourth minute and Richard Mantell flicked in the second in the 10th. India's forward Prabhjot Singh had two efforts blocked in quick succession as India, who won their last gold in 1980, tried to claw their way back and VR Raghunath then fired over from a rebound. India were also beaten 3-2 by Britain the round-robin stage. They were unable to find a way through in the second half despite forcing a flurry of penalty corners. The defeat plunged the Indian Hockey Federation in despair and President KPS Gill and Secretary Jyothikumar, who later suffered the ignominy of being caught in a sting operation by a private television channel, were asked to step down immediately for "destroying Indian hockey" during their tumultuous 14-year tenure in office. India missed out on an automatic berth to Beijing after they failed to reach the 2006 Asian Games final. India could never really settle down and the two yellow cards to their key players, midfielder Sardara Singh and forward Prabhjot Singh filled their cup of woe. India also blew away five penalty-corners, with neither Ramachandra Raghunath, with his drag-flicks,



Raghunath V.R. (Right)

nor Dilip Tirkey with his direct hits, able to convert. In fact, their set-piece drill in the second half was pathetic, as the ball was not even stopped cleanly. India did knit together a few moves but at the finish it was the same old tale of wrong passes and, at times, too much of individual play. With the time ticking by, India made desperate attempts force a penalty-corner and finally succeeded in the 31st minute. But Raghunath failed to beat goalkeeper Alistair McGregor. The debacle kicked off a chain reaction with Carvalho quitting as coach and IHF along with the IOA and the government, trying to bring in the already appointed technical advisor, former Aussie legend Richard Charlesworth. The IHF did not agree to Charlesworth taking over the senior team but gave the legendary Aussie the junior and women's team. IHF chief KPS Gill refused to put in his papers and to rub salt into the wounds of many hockey lovers vowed that he would not rest until he restores the glory of India hockey while in office!

Judo

Judo was developed from jujitsu in Japan by Jigoro Kano. It was included in the Olympic games for the first time in 1964. The six kyu (pupil) grades wear white, yellow, orange, green, blue, or brown belts in order of increasing skill, the 12 dan (master) grades all wear black belts.

presence in Formula One having sponsored the Benetton Formula One team in 1996-97. In 2007, Kingfisher Airlines was a sponsor of the Panasonic Toyota Formula One Team. Force India was born in



Narain Karthikeyan

October 2007 after a consortium formed by Mallya and Netherlands-based Mol family bought the Spyker F1 team. Italian Giancarlo Fisichella was confirmed as the first race driver and German Adrian Sutil as the second. Former Spyker test drivers Roldan Rodriguez and Giedo van der Garde are the test drivers for the Force India team. Colin Kolles is the team principal and Mallya is the chairman and managing director. But Force India did not have the greatest of starts to the 2008 season. Fisichella's Australian Grand Prix lasted just the first corner, while Sutil, who promised much in the first few laps, was forced to quit with a hydraulic pressure problem. But both the drivers did not lose heart and kept improving with every race. At the end of the German GP, Force India had

not managed to win any points but had registered two double finishes for the season. And after the tenth round (German GP), Mallya had already begun to focus on the next season. He felt the need for the team developing its 2009 package rather than progressing its current car. The upgrade to the gearbox for the Hungarian Grand

Prix was the last improvement to Force India's 2008 car. The team has also hired more staff and has planned to increase its budget for 2009. The rule changes next year - when new technology and a budget cap come into play - should benefit the Indian team. So good times could well be round the corner for Mallya who is also the chairman of the Motorsports Association of India. He also announced that India would start construction of a Formula One circuit near New Delhi in October and is on track to host its first grand prix in 2010. That's more good news for the millions of F1 fans in the country. But amidst all this excitement for India's motor sport scenario, there is something missing from the fan's viewpoint - an Indian driver zooming past along with other ace drivers, perhaps. Will that happen soon?

Indian hockey's greatest tragedy

Eight time Olympic gold medallist India failed to qualify for the Olympic Games men's hockey event for the first time when they lost 2-0 to Britain in the final

of the qualifying tournament at Santiago, Chile. It was for the first time ever that India was facing this ignominy. They had made it to every Olympic Games since

Jujitsu

This is the form of self-defence, usually unarmed, used by the Japanese samurai. The object was to disable, cripple or kill an opponent by using his own momentum and strength against him. With misuse, it became unpopular in the late 19th century.

be pressurized into making mistakes while facing a sustained spin attack on a turning track.

This is exactly what happened and even without the injured Kumble the Indians comfortably won the Kanpur Test in three days by



Virender Sehwag

eight wickets to level the series and keep their proud home record intact. From the Indian viewpoint what this series underlined is the fact that the seniors still have a major role to play. Virender Sehwag hit a triple hundred, Rahul Dravid got a hundred and Sourav Ganguly two successive knocks of 87. The bowling will continue to revolve around Harbhajan and Kumble even if the latter is finally showing signs of declining skills.

Indian Tennis

For Indian tennis this was a turbulent year not as much for events on court as off it. An open revolt by the players against their Davis Cup captain Leander Paes, a serious quarrel between Paes and his long time partner Mahesh Bhupathi that led to a break up before AITA secretary Anil Khanna brokered an unhappy and uneasy compromise that resulted in the pair taking part in the Beijing Olympics, the decision of Sania Mirza not to participate in the Bangalore Open so as to avoid controversy as she put it. Oh yes, it was a pretty eventful year for Indian tennis though most of it was not the pleasant kind.

The faint silver lining was provided by the Indian team making the Davis Cup World Group qualifying round with a hard fought 3-2 win over Japan. In fact it was on the eve of the tie against Japan that trouble started brewing. Led by Bhupathi, the other members of the

squad Prakash Amritraj, Rohan Bopanna and Karan Rastogi made it clear that they would not play the match against Japan under Paes. In a letter to the AITA they

said that the captain was putting his interests above the teams and taking credit by winning matches he had no business playing.

The genesis of the controversy apparently lay in the fact that Paes had played



Leander Paes

the live fifth rubber against Pakistan in 2006 and then against Kazakhstan last year in the relegation play-off matches to steer India to victory. Both times the Indian captain played the No. 2 singles players of the opposing teams. At the time of the release of the letter Bopanna was quoted in a newspaper interview

Early Football Associations

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India & South Africa Test Series

It was a contest that neither side deserved to win or lose so in the end it could appear that a 1-1 draw in the three Test series between India and South Africa held shortly after the Indians returned from Australia was a just result. The South Africans could well be happy with the result having entered the series as underdogs. But the Indians too would not be unhappy coming from behind to square the series being as they were without Sachin Tendulkar for two Tests and Anil Kumble for one.

India started as favourites having done very well against England at home and losing to the No 2 in the ICC rankings. Moreover they were playing at home and this is where the Indians have an outstanding record. In the last 21 years only two visiting teams South Africa in 2000 and Australia four years later have won a Test series. But when the Graeme Smith led-side was not without the credentials for doing well in India. Late last year they had won a Test series in Pakistan and just before hopping over to India they had overwhelmed Bangladesh and Smith made it clear that the objective was a rare treble in the sub continent. In the end even if he fell short of his aim one is sure the South African



Rahul Dravid

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But then even before the series it was accepted that while the batting would not be a problem the bowling looked ill equipped to dismiss the formidable Indian batting line up. The batting beauty of a pitch at Chennai in the first Test only served to underline this but when unexpectedly presented with a fast and bouncy track at Ahmedabad the pace trio of Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini and Morke Morkel sliced through the Indian batting, bereft of Tendulkar, so methodically that the home side were dismissed for their second lowest total at home. Thereafter a victory for South Africa was only a matter of time and the visitors duly handed out the Indians their first innings defeat inside three days in this country.

It was obvious at this stage that the only chance India had of winning the final Test and squaring the three-match series would be to prepare a turning track. There was little chance of this tactic boomeranging because South Africa were weak in the spin department. Moreover while the South Africans were adept at playing the quick stuff they could well

Scone Theory

Bodyline was referred to as Scone Theory by Australians. It was the intimidatory English bowling tactics. The ball is aimed repeatedly at the batsman's leg stump in a manner that threatens his body.

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Indian Premier League

It was the event of the year as far as the cricketing world was concerned. With the unbelievable build up, the innovative format of having franchisees complete with auctioning of players and city based teams and the tremendous interest the project generated around the cricketing world there was never any doubt that the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League would have a favourable outcome. The six-week extravaganza which had glitz and glamour and cricket of the rollicking variety in fact turned out to be a whopping success giving rise to a new phrase, cricketainment. Whichever way one examines the event there is little doubt that the IPL struck the right chords around the country. The IPL was also closely followed by cricket fans all over the world what with the cash-rich tournament having a truly international touch. Also keeping a tab on it were administrators who see Twenty20 as the game's future. On the eve of the tournament Sachin

Tendulkar predicted that the IPL would be a super-hit and indeed the IPL caught the public fancy in this country like few events in the past. Everywhere you went the discussion among cricket enthusiasts and even those having only a passing interest in the game centered round various aspects of the IPL. The fact that film stars, prominent industrialists and media barons were among the franchisees added more than a touch of

glamour while the astronomical amount of money involved was the subject of much debate. Various opinion polls focused on the large number of women followers among the millions of TV viewers and also significant according to the pollsters was that the IPL scored over the soap operas as also Shah Rukh's newly inaugurated game show "Kya Aap Panchvi Paas Se Tez Hai." The IPL succeeded in exploding many myths about the Twenty20 game, that it is a batsman's game, that it is a format of, by and for the youngsters and oldies have



Adam Gilchrist

no place in it and that it is all slam bang with little by way of strategic moves or tactical planning. Describing the IPL as 'a landmark time in cricket' Adam Gilchrist was of the view that after 30 years when people look back they would say it is the most important thing to have happened in cricket. "In time to come people will say IPL changed the direction of cricket" he said and it is difficult to disagree with this view. In a tournament lasting 45 days and involving 59 matches there was bound to be a glitch or two. There was the odd incident and the hot-under-the-collar statements. Admitting the glitches IPL chairman Lalit Modi reminded everyone

French fries and Microchips

US billionaire J.R. Simplot, who died at age 99 in May 2008, was a poor man who made it to the Forbes rich list. He invented frozen french fries and traded in microchips.



Prakash Amritraj

as saying "Prakash and I don't want to play under Leander. If he is the captain I will not play the Davis Cup. There is no need for him to come in and play reverse singles against Pakistan and Kazakhstan. He's insisting on playing the fifth match even against players we can beat." Amritraj joined in by saying this about India, most successful Davis Cup player: "This man has taken the joy away from playing the Davis Cup."

Paes had chosen debutant Somdev Dev Varman over India No.1 Amritraj in the first singles against Uzbekistan earlier this year. Amritraj, termed "unprofessional" by his captain then came back to play the reverse singles and rescued India with a victory over Farrukh Dustov. The match against Uzbekistan was seen as the last straw in the growing unrest against Paes. The players objected to his open criticism about them to the media and were of the view that he did not fulfill the larger role of a captain by not encouraging or communicating with the

teammates enough.

The matter was brushed under the carpet as the AITA asked the players to stick together till the tie against Japan which they ultimately played. But the undercurrent of uneasiness still remained. In an interview on the eve of the tie against Japan Paes made the startling revelation in an interview to a website that his decision to play doubles with Bhupathi was the worst decision he made in his career. Paes said that he sacrificed his singles career by opting to play doubles with Bhupathi in the late 1990s. "When I was at the top of my singles career, I sacrificed my ranking to play Satellites and Future tournaments with Bhupathi so that he could be at par with me which would help us get entry into ATP tournaments. Though everyone advised me not to pick up a rookie player like Mahesh, my instincts told me to take him along," Paes was quoted as saying. "Now, when I look back, I regret the fact that I sacrificed my singles career for him. Opting to play doubles with Mahesh was probably the worst decision of my playing career."

The rift between Paes and Bhupathi dates back to the Doha Asian Games 2006. After the duo won the doubles gold Bhupathi said that he would never play with Paes again. In fact when they played in the doubles against Japan the two were pairing together for the first time since the Doha Asian Games. Wimbledon Paes partnered Czech Luk Dlouhy and the ninth seeds made it to the semifinals.

An IPS officer on the Everest

Atul Karval, a 44-year-old IPS officer who hit the headlines following the encounter killing of gangster Raju Risaldar in Vadodra, scaled the Mount Everest on May 22, 2008 as part of an all India police expedition. Karval, whose wife is an IAS official, is the first Gujarati to scale the peak. He is a black belt in karate, a silver medallist in national equestrian championship and a scuba diving and skydiving enthusiast.

sudden one and there was plenty of thought involved before Sania decided that the pressures of playing at home were just too much. Right from the time she announced her arrival on the big stage some four years ago she has been in the news for both the right and wrong reasons. A sportsman or woman cannot attract attention only for the right reasons always and over a period he or she learns to take the rough with the smooth, the downs with the ups but Sania obviously has felt she has been receiving a raw deal particularly when playing at home. Naturally the focus of everyone, fans, media, officials and anyone even remotely connected with the sport is that much more on her when she plays in India. And Sania by this decision made it clear that she can take only so much and no more.

Sania obviously was rattled by a court case which alleged she showed disrespect to her national flag, an offence punishable by jail. For all her popularity she has had to pay a price and has been at the centre of a number of controversies. Soon after rising to prominence she faced an incident from a radical Muslim group who believed that her playing attire was unacceptable. A couple of years ago she made some comments about pre-marital sex that did not go down well with certain groups and when queried about this by the media an upset Sania walked out of the press conference. Then late last year she apologized to Muslim officials in her hometown Hyderabad following a police complaint for trespass after she shot an advertisement film in a mosque.

Clearly the pressure was starting to tell

on Sania and during the year she even contemplated quitting tennis because of the various controversies that seemed to follow her. As she said in a candid interaction with the media on her return from Australia it's very difficult to handle the pressure and the controversies. However best you try to block them off your mind they keep coming back at you. It is not all that easy.

A couple of days after opting out of the Bangalore tournament Sania in an interview with a news agency made it clear that while she was unlikely to reconsider her decision she would do be ready for national duty whenever selected. Sania, currently Asia's No 1 player said she was forced to skip the tournament as she was not in the right frame of mind to do justice to her ability. "This is the first time in my career that I have not entered an international tournament being played in India for genuine personal reasons. If I played in this state, I would have let my fans down."

Sania insisted that no sportsperson in India had undergone such turbulence and she obviously felt she was being singled out for whatever reason. It must have been a tough decision for Sania. Any player would like to get WTA points, beat a couple of top players and climb up the rankings and perhaps even win the tournament. To that extent she could well be applauded for a bold or brave decision. Also if she wanted to be dishonest and take the easy way out she could have feigned injury as an excuse not to play in the tournament. But all this raises this all important question will Sania ever play in a WTA tournament in India again?

Decathlon

The event for men consists of 10 events over two days. On the first are 100 m. sprint,

at it was the first year of a tournament run on a massive scale and he hoped that everything would be ironed out by the time of the next edition. Ticket fans can wait for it to get started which is the impact the IPL created. It seemed almost incidental that the least fancied side

Rajasthan Royals led shrewdly by Shane Warne won the trophy defeating Chennai Super Kings captained by MS Dhoni in a pulsating final in Mumbai by seven wickets, the winning run being scored

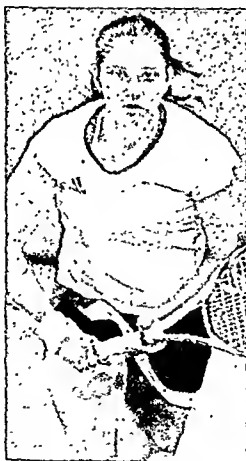
off the last ball of the match a storybook finish to an eventful tournament. Delhi Daredevils and King's XI Punjab were the semifinalists while the more fancied teams Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, Deccan Chargers and Royal Challengers from Bangalore failed to qualify for the last four. The stupendous success of the IPL opened the debate as to how much impact Twenty20 cricket would have on Test cricket and one day internationals, a debate that continued to rage till the end of the year.

Sania Mirza

For Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza it was a year to forget. No, she did not slide down the WTA rankings and maintained her standings in the early 30s and within 20 in the doubles. But she pulled out of the French Open following a capsule tear on her right wrist. She underwent surgery after injuring her wrist during a tournament in Indiana Wells in March. She missed her first Grand Slam after playing 13 majors in a row. And at Wimbledon Sania seeded No. 2 lost in the second round to a player ranked No. 101 in three sets - after having four match points!

But the issue that divided the tennis fraternity in the

country right down the centre was her decision to skip the prestigious Bangalore Open in March. It certainly was unexpected to put it mildly. Even



Sania Mirza

though she has had more than her share of controversies during her career hardly anyone would have expected her to skip a WTA event being played in her own country. After all she was in good form as her showing in the Australian Open confirmed, she lost to the higher ranked Venus Williams in two hard fought sets and her only WTA title has come her way when she was playing in her hometown Hyderabad in 2005.

Obviously this dramatic decision could not have been

A Silversmith and the Prudential Trophy

Paul Lamerie, the English silversmith of French Huguenot parents, became famous for his rococo designs in the 1740s. It was on his work that the Prudential trophy, first made in 1890, was modelled.

not well with Federer were seen early when Novak Djokovic defeated him in the semifinals of the Australian Open. At the French Open Nadal reigned supreme with a straight set win over Federer but it was expected that at Wimbledon the reigning champion for the last five years would win it again surpassing the record of the great Bjorn Borg who won it five years in a row from 1976 to 1980. But Nadal prevailed in a five set thriller and became the first man to win Wimbledon and French the same year since Borg 28 years before. Federer however clung on to his exalted status but by August he had won only two relatively minor tournaments, on grass in Germany and clay in Portugal. In comparison he won eight tournaments in 2007, 12 in 2006 and 11 each in the two preceding years. The dip in form was underlined by his loss to the American James Blake at the

Beijing Olympics, a title that Nadal went on to win. By this time Nadal taking over at the top remained only a formality and it was a tribute to his skill, fitness and determination both to conquer Wimbledon and get to the top. It may be too early to say that the Federer era is over. The Swiss player did set new standards and is still a formidable opponent even though by the time of his dethronement his win loss record in 2008 was a hard to believe 45-11 comparing poorly with 70-5 in 2004, 80-4 in 2005, 90-5 in 2006 and 67-9 in 2007. In the meantime let us salute the new No. 1 who was ranked second behind Federer for a record 160 consecutive weeks. There certainly can be no worthier successor to the crown that Federer wore for over four years. Their great rivalry will no doubt continue to be a notable feature of the tennis season.



Innovations

It created quite a controversy during the 1999 World Cup in England. During the match between India and South Africa it was observed that skipper Hansie Cronje and fast bowling spearhead Allan Donald were talking to a third person while on the field. It transpired that they were wired up to coach Bob Woolmer who sat in the dressing room dispensing advice. The South Africans were experimenting with a one way radio system but the match referee Talat Ali

was not impressed and when brought to his notice he disallowed it at the first drinks break. The ICC quickly ruled out remote control captaincy at least for the rest of the World Cup. But it did catch everyone's fancy as an interesting gadget and during the Indian Premier League the commentators were wired up with players on the field and the cricketers on the bench. It was amusing to see Parth Patel for example answering questioner chirpily and then running to make a sto

Venues of Games

First venue of SAF (South Asian) Games: Kathmandu

First venue of National Games: New Delhi

First venue of Afro-Asian Games: Hyderabad

Nadal Replaces Federer

Nadal takes over at the top

Nadal never gave up fighting, never gave up hope that one day he would overtake the seemingly invincible Roger Federer and take over the No. 1 spot in the world rankings. And in August this year Rafael Nadal finally achieved his objec-



Rafael Nadal

After a record 237 successive weeks at the top the Swiss superstar finally slid to No. 2 and the amiable Spaniard took over as No. 1. The measure of Federer's achievement can be gauged from the fact that only three men have held the No. 1 rank for over 100 straight weeks,

Jimmy Connors (160), Ivan Lendl (157) and Pete Sampras (102). Federer had dominated the sport from mid-2003 and over five years won every Grand Slam (including Wimbledon for five successive years) barring the French Open. Here he was always second best to Nadal just as



Roger Federer

the Spaniard was always second best to Federer at Wimbledon. Federer finished 2007 on a near perfect note winning the Masters Series in Hamburg after pocketing three Grand Slams and reaching the final of the French Open. This year however the warning signals that all was

Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth (the popular name of George Herman Ruth) was a celebrated baseball player on whom the film 'The Babe' was made in 1991. In 15 years he scored 714 home runs. As a pitcher he won a total of 94 games.

world amateur snooker championship. He did so with a bang winning the title as an 18-year-old. Advani became the third youngest player in world snooker history and only the second Indian after the late Omprakash Agarwal in 1984 to win the prestigious title. Moreover Advani won the crown in his maiden appearance. Advani first picked up the cue when was barely 10 and compiled his first century break when just 11. But his climb really began when he was a few days short of his 12th birthday. He won the Karnataka sate junior crown in both billiards and snooker. The cherubic Bangalorean then won many other titles as well and emulated Sethi's record of winning three national titles, the junior billiards and the junior and senior snooker titles in a single national championship. It was after this feat that he brought back the world snooker title to India after 19 years. Advani also demonstrated his class as a member of the Indian team at the world championship held in China, outplaying some of the most reputed cueists including Saleh Mohammad of Pakistan by 11 frames to 6 in the final. In 2005 in Malta, Advani defeated fellow Indian Devendra Joshi to win the world billiards title, emulating Malta's Paul Mifsud the only other player to have won both the billiards and snooker amateur world titles. Coached by veteran Indian cueist Arvind Savur, Advani's other exploits in the two cue sports include a quarterfinal appearance in the 2007 world billiards championship, gold medal at the Asian Games in 2006 in billiards singles and the only Indian participant in the World Snooker Association (WSA) Challenge

Tour in 2004 and 2005. Advani was honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna the nation's highest sporting honour for the year 2005-2006.

Dipika good looks and talent go together

She has film star looks but there is no mistaking her talent as a top flight junior squash player in the country. Winning the national Under-13 title at the age of 11 and then annexing the Under-19 title twice over in later years, Dipika Pallikal was in the news in the early part of the year for her exploits in the British Junior



Dipika Pallikkal

Open, considered the Wimbledon of squash. The Chennai school girl won the Under-17 title, considered a prestigious award for any aspiring squash player wishing to go far. National Champions Joshna Chi-

nappa and Saurav Ghosal had both won the Under-19 titles there earlier. For long has this 17 year-old been in the shadow of Joshna and with the British Open success, Dipika has emerged as another luminous star from India. The success in England had come after several overseas achievements in the German, Dutch, France, Australia and Scottish opens. What was significant in the British success was that she had beaten a strong Egyptian in Heba El Torky, whose coach Amr Waghi was to switch over to coaching the Indian thereafter. Dipika's greatest benefit has

r attempting a catch and then talking about it immediately afterward. The conversations with those in the dug out made for an interesting sidelight to the main action.

For long there was talk about bringing in a system wherein cricketers could appeal against an umpire's decision. Growing discontent with umpiring decisions, particularly after slow motion TV replays confirmed the decisions to be incorrect, led to administrators thinking in terms of an experimental measure wherein during a limited overs game each side could have three such appeals which would be referred to the third umpire immediately after the batsman was given out. Discontent has mainly revolved around leg before decisions since for run outs most on field officials take the safe op-

tion and consult the third umpire before arriving at a decision. Before a final decision could be taken at the official level the parallel Indian Cricket League took the initiative to try out the experiment during their tournaments. In most cases the decision of the umpires was proved to be correct but it was an interesting innovation to be introduced. And at the ICC meeting in Dubai in May the governing body's cricket committee announced that a trial on the umpire referral system would be used in the Test series between India and Sri Lanka. Though there were certain reservations with regard to the TV umpire's interpretations the experiment was generally welcomed for it succeeded in its main objective of setting right erroneous decisions.

People in Sports

Pankaj Advani - India's pride in snooker, billiards

Occasionally Indian sport throws up a world class sportsperson but in no sport has India thrown up more world beaters than in the cue sports of billiards and snooker. From Wilson Jones to Mike Ferreira, from Geet Sethi to Devendra Joshi the country has seen many champions in the two related sports. Young Pankaj Advani has been making waves more than any other talented cueist in the post-Sethi period. Confirmation of this came about in 2008 when he won the Asian championship. Advani made his

bow in the international arena when he was a first year B.Com student in Bangalore, representing the country in the



Pankaj Advani

Hammerin Hank

Hank Aaron, the baseball player who surpassed Babe Ruth's 39-year-old record and made a total of 755 home runs on retirement, had the nickname Hammerin Hank. His real name was Henry Lewis Aaron.

be said, helped the controversy to die down fast. Anju in the television interview had reportedly said that she would not like to belittle Usha's achievement but would not consider the Payyolli ex-



Anju Bobby George

press as a world class athlete, hinting that Usha's fourth-place finish in the 400m hurdles, a newly introduced event in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics was made possible only because athletes from the then erstwhile eastern bloc had boycotted the Games. "I am looking up to only world standard athletes," Anju had said, adding "Milkha Singh and Usha are only Asian level athletes." Usha did not take kindly to Anju's remarks but said she would not want to hurt the long jumper now as that could affect her preparations for the Beijing Games. "India is expecting a medal from Anju at the Beijing Olympics. If I answer to her comments, that will hurt her. I am not prepared to put her in such a mental state," she said. "Anju is like a small child to me. I have seen her grow before my eyes. She has to grow further," Usha added. Far away in the North, Milkha would rather that Anju concentrated more on her preparations for the Beijing Games, making it evident that he was not eager to join in any debate or comment on the controversial remarks.

After cricket now match fixing in tennis?

After cricket it was the turn of tennis to

come under the microscope as there was talk of match fixing on the courts. But a probe found no systematic or institutional corruption within tennis though it recommended that new measures be implemented to boost the sport's anti-corruption drive. The "Environmental Review of integrity in Professional Tennis" was launched in January following months of speculation regarding the extent of gambling in the sport. Two former London policemen, Jeffrey Rees and Ben Gunn, headed the inquiry. While it found that professional tennis is "neither systematically nor institutionally corrupt," the review found 45 professional matches in the past five years that had unusual betting patterns and required further investigation. As dozens of professional men's and women's matches are played every day around the world it was recommended that tennis authorities should implement a series of steps including tighter accreditation

procedures, lengthy suspensions and even lifetime bans for offenders and a uniform anti-corruption programme. Several players, male and female said since last year that they have been approached to lose, or affect the outcome of matches. Four Italian players have received bans for betting on tennis matches. The ATP has been trying to clamp down on any form of corruption in the game, banning players from accessing laptops at tournaments and posting signs asking them to telephone a 24-hour hotline if they hear of anything untoward. The WTA, which runs the women's tour, has also acknowledged that gambling is a problem, saying that anyone involved

Cricket World Cup

The venue of the first cricket World Cup was England (1975) and the first winner West Indies. Clive Lloyds was the first captain to receive the World Cup. The first team to receive the World Cup three times is Australia (1999, 2003 & 2007)

een that she is part of the L.N. Mittal champion trust, which takes care of her needs for a personal coach and playing facilities. The Indian regularly trains in Egypt, considered one of the world's best place for squash training. However after Vaghgi's tenure as national coach of Egypt has ended, Dipika plans to move over to Kuwait at some time to continue her training. Having once been the number one ranked player in Europe and Asia in the U-15 section, Dipika also has earned the number one rank in the WISPA's 'rising stars' Under-19 section. The national champion in the junior section, Dipika should be eying the senior national title which remains in the firm grip of Joshna. Last year Dipika had finished second best to Joshna.

He keeps India's flag flying in world TT

Achanta Sharath Kamal continued to hold India's flag high in world table tennis. The Chennai-based national champion was ranked No 79 after holding a career best ranking of 73 last year. His immediate



Achanta Sharath Kamal

goal remained to better the best world rankings achieved by Indians Kamlesh Mehta (70) and Chetan Baboor (72) and then he said he expected to breach the 70 barrier. In April Sharath scored one of his best victories when he got the better of world No 26 Tang Peng of China. The Commonwealth Games gold medalist who plays for San Sebastian in the Spanish league is one of the rare non Chinese outstation players in the Spanish league. Sharath has helped his club to improve their position in the highly competitive league. (see p. 995)

Snippets

Anju stirs a hornet's nest

Anju Bobby George's exploits in long jump is well known. As the first Indian to win a medal (bronze) in the world athletics championship (in Paris in 2003) with a leap of 6.70m she has a stature of her own just as PT Usha carved a niche for herself in Indian athletics with her

stupendous deeds in the eighties. But during the year Anju in an interview on Malayala Manorama television channel unwittingly kicked up dust when she stated that she did not consider Usha to be a world class athlete and hence not her idol. It was an unexpected and unwanted remark. Usha's restrained reaction, it must

The Woman Among Men

Nancy Lieberman was the first woman to play in a men's professional basketball league. She was on the US Olympic team. Lynette Woodward was the first woman in the team Harlem Globetrotters in the team's 60-year history.

was to show him the path. The late Joseph had him drafted into the Kerala Police even though he had not attained the age for a government job. "Let him first mix with the tough men in the barracks and also fill up



I.M. Vijayan

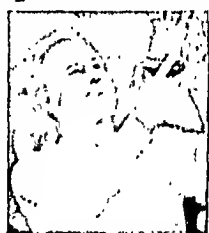
physically with nourishing food. He will be ready thereafter," believed the Police chief and how true it turned out to be! Those who had seen him grow would never grudge the big strides he made both as a footballer and a responsible man who had to look after a family living on the brink of desperation. His stint in Kolkata as a member of Mohun Bagan brought him a legion of fans. "I had to be there in the mecca of Indian football," he would pray. Vijayan captured the imagination of fans in Kolkata. From Kolkata to Punjab (JCT Mills) and then to (now defunct) FC Kochin before again returning to Kolkata, Vijayan scripted an illustrious career. In between he had starred for India, even captained it, in internationals. As Bhutia observed "He's as talented as the World's best; had he got the right training and other facilities the results would have been even better. Training the right way is important," Bhutia, who had seen it all during his tenure at the Bury FC of England said.

Some things never change

It was just like old times for John McEnroe. At 49 one would expect him to mellow with age and not be the firebrand he was at the peak of his playing prowess

some 25 years ago. But as the saying goes a leopard never changes his spot and 24 years after winning his third and last Wimbledon singles title McEnroe, as volatile as ever, was tossed out from his opening match at the over 30s Hall of Fame Champions Cup tennis tournament in Newport (USA) thanks to temper tantrums. It was in fact a new kind of triple fault, cursing, arguing with the chair umpire and making an obscene gesture at fans. "Historically there have been more issues with McEnroe's matches than the other guys but this was over the top", said supervisor Jon Venison. The temperamental McEnroe did not meet with reporters after defaulting against Malivai Washington. "I guess 1992 in New Haven was the last time I played John. Has anything changed? I guess he has one

of those explosive personalities," said Washington. While arguing a line call McEnroe was given a code violation warning for uttering an obscenity. When he kept up his tirade against chair umpire



John McEnroe

Ray Brodeur he drew two abuse of official penalties. As the argument progressed fans at the International Hall of Fame court started yelling at McEnroe telling him to resume play. McEnroe responded with his obscene gesture and was thrown out. It marked the first time McEnroe was defaulted from a match on the Outback Champions Series an international circuit for stars over 30. For all one knows it won't be the last.

The Stanley Cup

It was a governor-general of Canada by name Baron Stanley of Preston who offered cup to the team that won the amateur ice hockey championship of Canada in 1894. The 2-foot-high trophy cost the baron \$48.50,

ould face a life ban. "This review is a positive statement," Grand Slam committee administrator Bill Babcock said in an interview. "Tennis is a healthy sport. There are corruptors around the sport but not inside." He said the recommendations were accepted by all stakeholders and would be implemented by the end of the year.

Bhutia and the Olympic torch

One of India's finest footballers Baichung Bhutia was hardly 16 when he was taken up by East Bengal, the leading Kolkata club. The youngster from Sikkim matured fast, learnt the tough life of the Kolkata maidan and was soon winning encomiums with his forthright approach to the rival goal. Few sights in Indian football have been as enchanting as Bhutia going for a goal. The popular footballer enhanced his reputation with a stint with lower division team Bury FC in England. That transformed him as a person and a footballer and he became outspoken on the shortcomings of Indian football. Thus when he decided to pull out of the Olympic torch relay held in New Delhi on April 17, he had many sitting up and taking notice. It was a move not without a touch of controversy for it smacked of mixing politics with sport and opinion was clearly divided. The Indian captain however defended his decision. He made it clear that he abhorred violence and it was his way of showing solidarity



Baichung Bhutia

with the people of Tibet. "I sympathize with the Tibetan cause. I'm against violence but I thought I should stand by the Tibetan people in their fight," Bhutia said. A Buddhist Bhutia conveyed his decision to the IOA, which had invited him just as it had sent invitations to former athletes PT Usha, GS Randhawa and Milkha Singh for the run with the flame, which was launched on its 130-day global tour, through 135 cities, before returning to Beijing on August 8 for the opening ceremony. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) President, Priyaranjan Dasmuni said that while the Federation respected Bhutia's decision, it also expressed its support to the Beijing Games. "Baichung Bhutia expressed his desire not to take part in this function for personal reasons. It is purely an expression of his fundamental right and is his own decision, totally unrelated to AIFF and football fraternity," Mr Dasmuni said.

IM Vijayan the best: Bhutia

Current skipper of the Indian football team Baichung Bhutia believes IM Vijayan is the best Indian football player he has seen in his career. Few will disagree with his assessment of a man whose rags to riches story is part of Indian football folklore. Thanks to the benevolence of a football-loving police chief in Kerala (MK Joseph) who spotted him and was thrilled to see the teenager then marvel with the ball at his feet, Vijayan rose to become India's best known footballer. From a street-side hut, with his mother the bread winner, Vijayan drew away from the pangs of hunger and toil to script a new life of fame and fortune. Football

Football

The first World Cup hosted by two nations was: 2002, South Korea and Japan. The first World Cup was held in Uruguay (1930), the host country was the winner. The first Asian country to enter the semifinals of Olympics football: India.

positive results. Three years at the my and this Sacred Heart Church convent schoolgirl already has a ul of international titles _ Malaysian , Singapore Open, Scottish Open _ er latest success in Busan (Korea) in ing the Asian Under-15 title has to placed right at the top. Age is in her ur and seeing her belt the ball and w touches of a thinking brain during WISPA tournament in Chennai that owed the Asian event it became clear t Anaka has the potential to go far. e could well succeed Joshna Chinappa d Dipika Pallikal, currently the best own Indian women squash players in e country.

Chess is one sport in which India has een producing genuine talent be it sub nior, junior or senior categories. This as proved again in the Asian Youth chess championship in Teheran this ear. The Indian contingent dominated he competition as three girls and three oys helped them to win half the titles at stake. They returned home with six gold, five silver and ten bronze medals. Two members of the squad stood out. Both hail from humble backgrounds in Tamil Nadu. Madurai girl P Uthra stole the show winning the Under-18 title while another Madurai girl R Preethi won the bronze. A Chennai girl M Mahalakshmi won the Under-10 title in the girls section. All India Chess Federation (AICF) secretary DV Sundar described the Indian girl's performance as outstanding although it did not match the showing in the World youth championships in 2006 in Georgia. The performance at Teheran was highly creditable because the upcoming stars



Joshna Chinappa

had powerful rivals like Iran and Vietnam to contend with. Uthra is in fact studying in Chennai in Velammal school as also Mahalakshmi. Uthara shot into the limelight exhibiting her prowess in the National Under-17 championship two years ago. She won this title last year also. She began playing chess ten years ago and two years ago won the bronze medal in the Asian youth championship. She was coached by her sister Sivasankari and state level coach A Joseph. Mahalakshmi is also a student of Vellammal school which has been inculcating the spirit of participating in sports seriously among the students. She was World No 3 in the Under-8 category in 2006, was the Under-7 national champion in 2007 and the Under-5 national champion in 2005. That same year she won the fourth place in the Asian youth championship in the Under-5 age group. In the 2007 World youth championship, Uthara finished in the tenth position. Mahalakshmi learnt her moves on the chess board at a chess academy in Chennai. Later her talent was honed by Tamil Nadu and India player M.R. Sangeetha and state coach Ismail.

A Feat at 16

Tracy Austin was only 16 years 8 months in 1981 when she became the youngest woman ever to win the US Open. She beat Chris Evert Lloyd. In 1981 she won the second US Open, besting Martina Navratilova in the final.

en as it is continuously on the decline, Indian hockey has been producing talented players in recent years. And just as the Indian team was preparing for the Olympic qualifiers under Joachim Carro who subsequently quit following the team's failure to make it to Beijing Games, there emerged another notable talent in Diwakar Ram. It was a crucial breakthrough for the young man as he, who reportedly had differences with Sandeep Singh the ace defender and a flicker, groomed Diwakar for this. And notwithstanding the stormy developments in Indian hockey following the failure to qualify for the Olympics, Diwakar has come to stay even after he had deep returned to the squad under the new look IHF following the sacking of PS Gill, the former President and the replacement of the secretary K Jyothikumaran. The 20-year-old Diwakar Ram hails from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. He had his preliminary introduction to hockey at the Sports Hostel, Lucknow and made his international debut at the Mönchengladbach 8-Nation tournament in 2007. This was followed by his senior debut in the Test series against Pakistan. He scored 12 goals through penalty corners at the Kuala Lumpur Invitation Tournament (2008) and a four in the silver medal winning campaign in the Azlan Shah Cup in May. Diwakar was the star in the triumphant campaign of the Indian team in the Junior

Asia Cup at Hyderabad. He is a long-term prospect and a bright future awaits him in the hope that he would be a key player in restoring India's pride in hockey in the international arena.

From lawn tennis to another racket sport - squash - seemed a natural shift for young Anaka Alankamony, who has just turned 14 and is the latest Asian Under-15 squash champion. For six years she had concentrated on tennis, had a good training and then became a regular participant in state-level tournaments. But success did not come her way. "A quarterfinal berth in one tournament was my best," she remembers now. Somehow she felt like switching to an indoor sport. Perhaps her father, a badminton player at club-level too influenced her thinking. Squash became an instant choice considering the ICL academy in Chennai is now the nerve centre for budding squash talent. The structured training there has benefited quite a few players, some of whom had risen to win Asian-level laurels apart from other international accomplishments. Anaka did not dream of quick successes but having gone through the grind in tennis, it was easier to switch to the new routines and drills. Maj S. Maniam, the consultant coach of the Squash Rackets Federation of India has predicted a bright future for her. The Malaysian coach, who has been acknowledged as the man behind the rise of Malaysia as a force in world squash, believed that Anaka could

Cricket Firsts

The first captain of the Indian test cricket team was C.K. Nayudu (1932), while Lala Lajpat Rai was the first cricket captain of Independent India. The first Indian to play test cricket was K.S. Ranjitsinghji (for England, 1896).

a cash reward of Rs 15 lakh for each of the players. Not unexpectedly many in the victorious squad played for various teams in the IPL. At the function former Indian captain Rahul Dravid addressing the team

members said "What you give us is hope. We can believe the future of Indian cricket is bright, and I hope that you'll be part of a World Cup win someday. That should be your goal and inspiration.

India-Sri Lanka Test Series

Like India, Sri Lanka have an outstanding home record and so Anil Kumble's men knew they had a tough fight on their hands on the eve of the Test series in July, August. Seven years ago India lost the first Test, bounced back to win the second only to go down by an innings in the decider. There was a feeling of *deja vu* this time for again that's exactly how the series went. But the manner in which the Indians went down to a home side which had chinks in their armour was a major let down. The Sri Lankans were beatable but the Indians did not deserve to win and that was what was so hard to swallow.

A batting line-up that boasts of over 40,000 runs and more than 100 centuries could muster up only one three figure knock and seven half centuries between them in the three Tests. Therein lay the crux of the problem particularly when placed against Sri Lanka's tally of five hundreds and six half centuries. It was pathetic to see the famed quartet of Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman struggle against a rookie bowler, unable to read him even after three Tests, just groping forward and hoping for the best. Virender Sehwag and



V.V.S. Laxman

Gautam Gambhir succeeded in part because they adopted a positive approach. Laxman despite notching up two half centuries was not very convincing against Ajantha Mendis. What was equally astonishing was the fact that even Muthiah



Gautam Gambhir

Muralitharan who the quartet has been up against in Tests as far back as 1997 troubled the vastly experienced middle order. All are in their mid thirties and one wonders as to whether their skill or reflexes have deter-

iorated to the point where it is time for them to call it a day.

The bowling too left much to be desired and Anil Kumble in particular was a sore disappointment. A tally of eight wickets at an average of 50 did not befit a bowler of Kumble's reputation. The zip was missing in his bowling and perhaps after 18 years and 130 Tests and sending down over 40,000 deliveries he is feeling the strain which is not surprising. The old Kumble aggressive spirit is still there but at virtually 38 he surely is in the twilight of a long and illustrious career.

To make matters worse for the Indians the fielding and the wicket-keeping left much to be desired. The Sri Lankans are the best fielding side in the sub continent

Triumph

urely never before had there been two notable successes in Indian cricket within two days! A couple of days after the Indian team's triumph in the CB Series in Australia the Indian youngsters did the country proud by winning the Under-19 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in March. It was the second time that India were emerging triumphant in the tournament, their previous success being in Colombo in 2000. That victory unleashed the talents of Md Kaif, the victorious captain and Yuvraj Singh who went on to become prominent Indian stars. It remains to be seen who will make the transition successfully this time around but the triumphant campaign highlighted the prodigious talents of players like skipper Virat Kohli and Anmay Srivastava and much should be heard from them in future.

After 44 matches packed into 15 days across seven venues in three cities in Malaysia, there was no doubt that the host team was crowned champions. India were seeded second coming into the tournament and, although they did not face top-seeded Pakistan, no one can dispute their claim to the trophy.

In a truncated final because of rain India defeated South Africa by 12 runs via the Duckworth/Lewis method. Before a big crowd India batting first were all out for 159 in the 46th over with Srivastava top scoring with 46. Set a revised target of 116 to win from 25 overs after their

innings was reduced because of rain, South Africa fell 12 runs short.

The predominantly Indian crowd let out a big roar as a smiling Kohli accepted the cup from ICC President Ray Mali and lifted it above his head as the confetti fell from the stormy KL sky. Coached by Dav Whatmore, the Indian side was the most consistent during the tournament and though the bowlers won them the final, it was their batting that distinguished them from other teams in the tournament. Until the semi-final, India hadn't lost more than five wickets in any of their games; until the final they weren't bowled out.

In the semifinals India by the Duckworth/Lewis method defeated New Zealand by three wickets. New Zealand had scored 205 for eight in 50 overs and India whose revised target thanks to rain was 191 in 43 overs were home with nine balls to spare. The other semifinal was also decided by Duckworth/Lewis. South Africa led off with 260 for eight in 50 overs while Pakistan who had to get 252 in 47 overs were bowled out for 153 leaving the South Africans winners by 98 runs.

Earlier India with an all win record topped group B with South Africa finishing second. Pakistan topped group A while New Zealand were second.

The team was felicitated by BCCI president Sharad Pawar who announced

The Marathon Race

The marathon race was introduced at the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. The current marathon race (42 km. 195 m.) was first used in the 1908 London Olympics. The distance was standardized in 1924. The half marathon is run over the distance of 21 km.

than all others combined. The Oscar was Anand's fifth, a record. He won his first Chess Oscar in 1997. He won a second Oscar the following year. In both years he dominated all tournaments in rapid and classical formats. His third Oscar came in 2003 following a period of lukewarm results in 2001 and 2002. He followed this up by winning a fourth Oscar in 2004. In both years he once again showed his prowess in rapid chess by winning all the major rapid events. He also went onto win the Corus event two years in a row and in 2006 became the only player to win the event five times in the event's 70-year-old history. "The fifth Oscar is clearly the one I cherish most", Anand said. "I was elated even though I expected to win given my

performance in 2007," Anand became World No.1 and to add to his already full cup of joy, the world champion won the Mainz Chess Classic for a record fourth time in August and before that triumphed in the Leon tournament for the seventh time. Anand is the only non-Russian to win the Oscar five times. Bobby Fischer won it on three occasions and Bent

Larsen once. Among the currently active top players while Anand has five Oscars Kramnik has two and Topalov one. Other greats who have won the Oscar include Boris Spassky, Anatoly Karpov, Gary Kasparov and Bent Larsen. Anand's next big test is the defence of his world title against Kramnik which is scheduled for later this year.

Sports Miscellany

Prof. Babu Zachariah

Doping : Myths & Realities

It used to be said of East European sportspersons before the break up of the erstwhile Soviet bloc that drugs formed part of their regular breakfast. Cynical, though, this observation might have been, the present scenario is quite different.

A quick glance at the prevalent myths and realities of doping in the realm of sports follows:

1. Will a competitor be absolved if the substance he tests positive is included by him on the list of substance on the doping form that he has filed?

No. Listing of drugs in the form is no licence to dope taking. However, if the substance he has listed positive happens to be a stimulant under the 'Specified Substances' Category, he may have a

chance to prove his innocence and get away with a lesser punishment.

2. Will a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) safeguard an athlete?

Yes, if TUE is granted by a panel of experts who satisfy themselves that the substance is absolutely necessary for the athlete's health and that there is no substitute for it. For instance, if an athlete carrying TUE for asthma may be asked to produce results of a series of tests held in the preceding months or be asked to undergo an on-the-spot test.

3. Do recreational drugs like hashish or opium come under prohibited substances?

Yes, they do. They appear on the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) test of performance enhancing drugs.

Laureus Sports Award 2008

Sportsman of the Year: Roger Federer (Swi); **Sportswoman of the Year:** Justine Henin (Bel); **Team of the Year:** South Africa (rugby union); **Comeback of the Year:** Paula Radcliffe (GBR); **Breakthrough of the Year:** Lewis Hamilton (GBR); **Action Sportsperson of the Year:** Shalu White (USA); **Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability:** Esther Vergeer (Neth); **Lifetime Achievement :** Sergei Bubka (Ukr); **Spirit of Sport:** Dick Pound (Can); **Sport for Good:** Brendan and Sean Tuohey (USA).

ner's prescription help absolve an athlete testing positive?

Not at all. Every athlete is responsible for what he ingests.

5. Can an athlete take cover under the argument that the prohibited drug might have got in through diet any supplements?

No, he can't. The 'supplement' excuse is an old hat that merits no attention.

6. Is possession of a recreational drug an offence?

No, if the drug is not banned 'out of competition' and if the athlete is found in possession of it outside of a competi-

7. Can a competitor be named an offender if he is identified by an authorised testing laboratory?

No, not right away. A few procedures laid down have to be completed before any testing agency can publish an of-

ference. A name, more identification of an athlete won't entitle an agency to do

8. Does WADA test sportspersons competition around the world?

No, WADA does not do in-competition tests.

9. Are all national federation signatories to the WADA code?

No, not necessarily. WADA expects International Federation to be its signatories and their respective affiliated units to follow the regulations.

Technology to the aid of the Umpire

After baseball and more recently tennis, cricket has now welcomed technological assistance for umpires. Aids like 'Hawk-eye' had only been instruments of embarrassment to them.

Referral system came into play in the test series between Sri Lanka and India held in the island in July-August this year (2008).

Anil Kumble was the first to make use of it. It is an arrangement that allows the sides to appeal against a doubtful decision. It permits both the fielding and batting sides three challenges each, per innings. Like in tennis the quota cannot be carried over.

Only the Captain of the fielding side or the batsman can prefer an appeal against the umpire's decision. It is made by making a 'T' sign with both the forearms at shoulder level.

On being challenged, the on-field umpire in question consults the third umpire who reviews available television coverage of the incident before relaying his decision back to his colleague on the

Pele and Pelada

Pele got his nickname from his skill at pelada, a rough-and-tumble form of soccer he played in the streets as a child. This Brazilian (Edson Arantes do Nascimento, his real name) scored 1281 goals in his soccer career.

an Olympic gold medal four years earlier in London Braglia had taken the gold medal in the combined exercises of gymnastics and on the strength of that victory which was widely published and advertised, he had obtained a job with Italy's most famous circus as an acrobat and trapeze artist. He remained with the circus until 1911. Yet he was entered by Italy for the 1912 Games and duly defended his gymnastics title!

It's all in the Family!

What the Curies did in the Nobel realm, the Swahns of Sweden did in Olympic shooting and how!

The 1920 Antwerp games marked the last appearance together of the remarkable Swahn family in the shooting events - the 73 year old Oscar and his 41 year old son Alfred. Oscar who had made his Olympic debut at Paris in 1900, had been joined by his son Alfred at London (1908) and Stockholm (1912). Alfred went on to compete again at the Paris Games of 1924. Between them the father-son duo won 12 official Olympic medals. Oscar collected 3 golds, 2 silver

and 2 bronze, while Alfred's had included 3 gold, one silver and one bronze. If one includes their victories at the Intercalated Games of 1906 (Athens) - the Games were held for once out of the regular 4-year cycle - their grand total would read 16 - well and truly an astounding family record!

First on Field Protest

While the clenched fist-salute of the African-American athletes of USA from the victory stand has been too well documented, the silent protest of the Finnish team (1908, London) - no less acerbic - has by far been ignored.

At the opening ceremony of the 4th olympiad, the Finnish team marched into the Shepherd's Bush stadium without a flag. At that time Finland was still a Russian province and rather than march under a Russian flag, the members of this Finnish contingent decided that they would make a noticeable protest by marching without a flag.

Some Remarkable Medal Tallies

Four Individual Medals in Cycling

Marcus Hurley (USA) won cycling events

ICC Awards 2007-08

Cricketer of the Year: Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WI); **Test Player of the Year:** Dale Steyn (RSA); **ODI Player of the Year:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Ind); **Emerging Player of the Year:** Ajantha Mendis (SL); **T20 International Performance of the Year:** Yuvraj Singh (Ind); **Associate Player of the Year:** Ryan ten Doeschate (Ned); **Women's Cricketer of the Year:** Charlotte Edwards (Eng); **Umpire of the Year:** Simon Taufel (Aus).

Spirit of Cricket: Sri Lanka

ICC Test Team of the Year : Graeme Smith (RSA, capt), Virender

Sehwag (Ind), Mahela Jayawardene (SL), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WI); Kevin Pietersen (Eng), Jacques Kallis (RSA); Kumar Sangakkara (SL), Brett Lee (Aus); Ryan Sidebottom (Eng), Dale Steyn (RSA), Muttiah Muralitharan (SL); **12th man:** Stuart Clark (Aus).

ICC ODI Team of the Year: Herschelle Gibbs (RSA), Sachin Tendulkar (Ind), Ricky Ponting (Aus, capt.), Younis Khan (Pak), Andrew Symonds (Aus), Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Ind, wk), Farveez Maharoof (SL), Daniel Vettori (NZI); Brett Lee (Aus); Mitchell Johnson (Aus), Nathan Bracken (Aus).

12th man: Salman Butt (Pak)

at the third olympiad at St. Louis in 1904 - the quarter mile, 1/3 of a mile, 1/2 a mile and one mile - an all time record in Olympic cycling competition.

Munich Seven

Mark Andrew Spitz (USA) won a record seven gold medals at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972. His seven swimming successes included three relays. (His Jewish blood set afire by the dastardly, 'Munich massacre' at the Olympic village must have found it a cooling experience. Spitz was a second generation Israeli).

Eight Medals in one Game

Alexander Ditiatin (USSR) won eight medals at one celebration of the games in 1980 at Moscow: 3 gold, 4 silver, one bronze.

Ten Gold Medals

A polio-victim in youth, Ray Ewry (USA) is credited with an all-time record in Olympic history - ten gold medals: London, 1908 (2) : standing high jump and standing broad jump

Intercalated Games

Athens 1906 (2) Same items
St. Louis, 1904 (3) Same items +
Paris, 1900 (3) Same items +

People in Sports *Contd. from p. 982*

Anup, Saina qualify for Olympics but Chetan Anand misses the bus

Anup Sridhar failed to win the national crown at Goa but that did not matter. Saina Nehwal certified her top rating by retaining the national champion status. Whatever the outcome, the two as the highest ranked players in the country (as per the Badminton World Federation's list) duly qualified for the Beijing Olympics. Anup Sridhar, who had reached a career high of 24 slipped to 33 while Saina was ranked 30 in the women's section. No other Indian had scaled them in the world rankings. Anup is a touch lucky to have earned the passage considering his recent low-key performances. At the Goa national, where Chetan Anand surprised all to emerge victorious and also at the Asian Badminton championship, his performance never took off. An ankle injury was cited as a key reason. A product of the Tata Padukone Badminton Academy, Anup admitted, "What I am today is due to the efforts of the Academy and my mentors, Prakash Sir and Vimal Kumar and the academy staff." Prakash Padukone, while praising Anup believed "he has the talent to defeat the best players in the world

and I hope he puts up a medal winning show at Beijing." A delighted Saina said the success of qualifying had "put huge responsibility and the (attendant) expectations." She is trained by former All-England champion and India's chief National coach Pullela Gopi Chand. Poignant however was the story of the national champion Chetan, who later became the finalist at the inaugural Indian Open in Hyderabad. Having slipped badly in the world ranking (he was 61) from the top-30 position after the Badminton Association of India restricted players from participation in international tournaments, Chetan had a long leeway to bridge. Even though the Hyderabad tourney provided a flicker of hope of his making it to the Olympics it died out with his first round loss in the Asian championship. The win in the Spanish Open in Madrid in May was one more proof of a player hugely talented but failing to make the cut.

Indian motor sport stars make an impact

Indian motor sport was increasingly in the news throughout the year. Narain Karthikeyan started the trend with entry into Formula One racing - has obviously been the inspiration for many others. Current!

Olympic Games Records - Women

Discipline	Perf	Athlete	Nat	Venue	Date
100 Metres	10.62	Florence Griffith-Joyner	USA	Seoul	4/09/1988
200 Metres	21.34	Florence Griffith-Joyner	USA	Seoul	29/09/1988
400 Metres	48.25	Marie-José PÉrec	FRA	Atlanta, GA	29/07/1996
800 Metres	1:53.43	Nadezhda Olizarenko	URS	Moskva	27/07/1980
1500 Metres	3:53.96	Paula Ivan	ROU	Seoul	01/10/1988
5000 Metres	14:40.79	Gabriela Szabo	ROU	Sydney	25/09/2000
10,000 Metres	29:54.66	Tirunesh Dibaba (National Stadium)	ETH	Beijing	15/08/2008
Marathon	2:23:14	Naoko Takahashi	JPN	Sydney	24/09/2000
3000 Metres	8:58.81	Gulnara Samitova-Galkina (National Stadium)	RUS	Beijing	17/08/2008
100 Metres Hurdles	12.37	Joanna Hayes	USA	Athl'na (Olympic Stadium)	24/08/2004
400 Metres Hurdles	52.64	Melaine Walker (National Stadium)	JAM	Beijing	20/08/2008
High Jump	2.06	Elena Slesarenko	RUS	Athl'na (Olympic Stadium)	28/08/2004
Pole Vault	5.05	Yelena Isinbaeva	RUS	Beijing (National Stadium)	18/08/2008
Long Jump	7.40	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	USA	Seoul	29/09/1988
Triple Jump	15.39	Françoise Mbango Etone (National Stadium)	CMR	Beijing	17/08/2008
Shot Put	22.41	Ilona Briesenick	GDR	Moskva	24/07/1980
Discus Throw	72.30	Martina Hellmann	GDR	Seoul	29/09/1988
Hammer Throw	76.34	Aksana Miankova	BLR	Beijing (National Stadium)	20/08/2008
Javelin Throw	71.53	Osleidys Menéndez (Olympic Stadium)	CUB	Athl'na	27/08/2004
Heptathlon	7291	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	USA	Seoul	24/09/1988
20 Kilometres Race Walk	1:26:31	Olga Kaniskina (National Stadium)	RUS	Beijing	21/08/2008
4x100 Metres Relay	41.60	German Democratic Republic	GDR	Moskva	01/10/1980
4x400 Metres	3:15.17	USSR	URS	Seoul	01/10/1988

The Lowest Score

New Zealand scored 26 runs in an innings in 1954-55. That is the lowest in Cricket.

World Outdoor Records - Men

Discipline	Perf	Athlete	Nation	Venue	Date
100 Metres	9.69	Usain Bolt	JAM	Beijing	16/08/2008
200 Metres	19.30	Usain Bolt	JAM	Beijing	20/08/2008
400 Metres	43.18	Michael Johnson	USA	Sevilla	26/08/1999
800 Metres	1:41.11	Wilson Kipketer	DEN	K'In	24/08/1997
1500 Metres	3:26.00	Hicham El Guerrouj	MAR	Roma	14/07/1998
5000 Metres	12:37.35	Kenenisa Bekele	ETH	Hengelo	31/05/2004
10,000 Metres	26:17.53	Kenenisa Bekele	ETH	Bruxelles	26/08/2005
Marathon	2:03:59	Haile Gebrselassie	ETH	Berlin	28/09/2008
3000 Metres					
Steeplechase	7:53.63	Saif Saaeed Shaheen	QAT	Bruxelles	03/09/2004
400 Metres					
Hurdles	46.78	Kevin Young	USA	Barcelona	06/08/1992
High Jump	2.45	Javier Sotomayor	CUB	Salamanca	27/07/1993
Pole Vault	6.14	Sergey Bubka	UKR	Sestriere	31/07/1994
Long Jump	8.95	Mike Powell	USA	Tokyo	30/08/1991
Triple Jump	18.29	Jonathan Edwards	GBR	G'teborg	07/08/1995
Shot Put	23.12	Randy Barnes	USA	Westwood, CA	20/05/1990
Discus Throw	74.08	Jürgen Schult	GDR	Neubrandenburg	06/06/1986
Hammer Throw	86.74	Yuriy Sedykh	URS	Stuttgart	30/08/1986
Javelin Throw	98.48	Jan Zelezny	CZE	Jena	25/05/1996
4x100 Metres Relay	37.10	Jamaica	JAM	Beijing	22/08/2008
4x400 Metres Relay	2:54.29	United States	USA	Stuttgart	22/08/1993

World Outdoor Records - Women

Discipline	Perf	Athlete	Nation	Venue	Date
100 Metres	10.49	Florence Griffith-Joyner	USA	Indianapolis, IN	16/07/1988
200 Metres	21.34	Florence Griffith-Joyner	USA	Seoul	29/09/1988
400 Metres	47.60	Marita Koch	GDR	Canberra	06/10/1985
800 Metres	1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvilová	TCH	München	26/07/1983
1500 Metres	3:50.46	Yunxia Qu	CHN	Beijing	11/09/1993
5000 Metres	14:11.15	Tirunesh Dibaba	ETH	Oslo (Bislett)	06/06/2008
Marathon	2:15:25	Paula Radcliffe	GBR	London	13/04/2003
3000 Metres					
Steeplechase	8:58.81	Gulnara Galkina (National Stadium)	RUS	Beijing	17/08/2008
100 Metres					
Hurdles	12.21	Yordanka Donkova	BUL	Stara Zagora	20/08/1988
400 Metres					
Hurdles	52.34	Yuliya Pechenkina	RUS	Tula	08/08/2003
High Jump	2.09	Stefka Kostadinova	BUL	Roma	30/08/1987
Pole Vault	5.05	Elena Isinbaeva	RUS	Beijing	18/08/2008
		(National Stadium)			

Long Jump	7.52	Galina Chistyakova	URS	Leningrad	11/06/1988
Triple Jump	15.50	Inessa Kravets	UKR	G^teborg	10/08/1995
Shot Put	22.63	Natalya Lisovskaya	URS	Moskva	07/06/1987
Discus Throw	76.80	Gabriele Reinsch	GDR	Neubrandenburg	09/07/1988
Hammer Throw	77.80	Tatyana Lysenko	RUS	Tallinn	15/08/2006
Javelin Throw	72.28	Barbora äpot-kov	CZE	Stuttgart	13/09/2008
Heptathlon	7291	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	USA	Seoul	24/09/1988
Decathlon	8358	Austra Skujyte	LTU	Columbia, MO	15/04/2005
4x100 Metres Relay	41.37	German Democratic Republic	GDR	Canberra	06/10/1985
4x400 Metres Relay	3:15.17	USSR	URS	Seoul	01/10/1988

Sports Diary - 2008

January 01. Haryana and Kerala win national volleyball championship in the men's and women's categories respectively. **•02.** Second test match of India - Australia series begins at Sydney; United States Anti Doping Agency imposes a four year ban on Justin Gatlin for using steroids. **•03.** South Korean boxer Choi Yoo Sam who suffered brain haemorrhage during a fight dies. **•04.** International Tennis Federation bans Martina Hingis for two years after an independent tribunal confirmed a doping offense on her; US lifts Hopman tennis Cup beating Serbia 2-1 in the final Bangladesh completes 50 matches in test cricket. **•06.** Deepika Pallikal of India wins British Open squash (Girls under-17). At Sheffield, she defeated Egyptian Heba El Torky to win the title for the first time; Australia wins Syd-

ney test by 122 runs. Man of the match: Andrew Symonds. Thrilling win helps Australia equal its own record of winning most consecutive test matches (16 victories); ICC match referee imposes a ban for three test matches on Harbhajan Singh for making racial abuse on Andrew Symonds; Russian Mikhail Youzhny lifts Chennai Open defeating Rafael Nadal in the final. **•07.** National School Athletic meet begins in Kolkata; Chandigarh Dynamos defeats Bangalore Hi Fliers 3-2 in the first final of the Premier Hockey league. **•08.** ICC decides to remove umpire Steve Bucknor from officiating in the upcoming Perth test. Harbhajan Singh allowed to play, pending the verdict of appeal filed by BCCI; 12th CBSE National athletic championship concludes. Kottayam Labour India Public School wins

The Name 'Soccer'

The original former name of soccer was Association Football. The name 'soccer' was coined in England by Charles Wreford Brown in 1863. The 3rd, 4th and 5th letters of Association plus the suffix 'cer' gave the world 'soccer'.

overall title. •09. Gujarat is the Ranji Trophy Plate division champion beating Railways in the final. In the second final of Premier Hockey league, Bangalore Hi-Fliers defeats Chandigarh Dynamos 4-2. •11. Legendary mountaineer and philanthropist Sir Edmund Hillary (88) passes away in Auckland; A US federal court imposes a six months prison sentence on Marion Jones for lying about steroid use to federal investigators; Bangalore Hi-Fliers lifts 4th edition of Premier Hockey League. In the third final, they beat Chandigarh Dynamos 2-1. Arjun Halappa declared Man of the Tournament; Kerala crowned winners for the 11th consecutive time at the National School Meet. •14. India drops charge against Australian bowler Brad Hogg for using abusive language on Anil Kumble and M. S. Dhoni. •16. India- Australia third test match begins in Perth. •17. Legendary chess player Bobby Fischer (64) passes away; Anil Kumble captures his 600th wicket in test cricket by sending off Andrew Symonds. With Shaun Tait's wicket, Kumble establishes a world record for most caught and bowled dismissals (32) overtaking Muttiah Muralitharan. •18. Kerala's Kochi secures a significant place on the world maritime map. Kochi is all set to be a stopover port in the 2008-09 Volvo Ocean Race, an agreement is signed; Irfan Pathan completes 1000 runs in test cricket. •19. India wins Perth test by 72 runs. Man of the match- Irfan Pathan; Delhi lifts Ranji Trophy beating U. P. by 9 wickets in the finals. •20. John Kelai (Kenya) and Mulu Seboka (Ethiopia) win Mumbai marathon in the men's and women's sections

respectively. •25. Mahesh Bhupathi- Sania Mirza duo storm into the finals of Australian Open Mixed Doubles. Sania becomes the first Indian woman to enter the finals of a Grand Slam tournament; Adam Gilchrist, with 414 dismissals, becomes the most successful test wicket-keeper. He passed Mark Boucher's mark (413) for the most test dismissals; Sachin Tendulkar, Sir Edmund Hillary (posthumous) and Viswanathan Anand honoured with Padma Vibhushan. Baichung Bhutia and Bula Chowdhury selected for Padma Shri. •26. Maria Sharapova wins Australian Open women's title. Jonathan Erlich-Andy Ram duo wins doubles title; Adam Gilchrist announces retirement from international cricket. •27. Novak Djokovic becomes the first Serbian to win a Grand Slam singles title, when he won the Australian Open Men's Singles. •28. India- Australia fourth and final test ends in a draw. Man of the match- Sachin Tendulkar. Aussies wins series, 2-1. Man of the series- Brett Lee; Sania Mirza is Asia's No 1 as per WTA ranking. Roger Federer and Justine Henin are the world No 1 in their respective categories. •29. ICC Appeals Commission clears Harbhajan Singh in racism charge case. Harbhajan fined 50 percent of his match fee for using offensive language against Andrew Symonds. •31. Diego Maradona, in an interview to The Sun tabloid, apologises for his infamous "Hand of God" goal in the 1986 worldcup; India clinches hockey series against Belgium, 3-1

February 01. Australia wins Twenty 20 match against India by 9 wickets. Man of the match- Michael Clarke. •03. Commonwealth Bank tri-series ODI

Hazare and Pataudi

The first Indian captain to lead India to victory in test cricket was Vijay Hazare (1932 vs. England). The first to do it on foreign soil was M.A.K. (1947 vs. New Zealand).

cket tournament begins. First match between India and Australia abandoned due to rain. •04. Athlete Maurice Greene bids adieu. •05. Sachin Tendulkar completes 16,000 runs in ODI at Brisbane. •06. Egypt wins African Nations Cup. India wins 3-2 over Uzbekistan in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group 1 Davis Cup; Ravi Shankar Prasad Chowrasia wins the Maharashtra MGF Indian Masters Golf championship. He is the third Indian, besides Sunil Atwal and Jeev Milkha Singh to win a European Tour event. Chowrasia is the first Indian winner of the first ever European Tour event staged in India; N. K. Prithuram (MRC Wellington) is the Chennai Marathon winner. M. Sudha (SDAT) and P. Bharatiraja (Erode) are the women's and men's half marathon winners. •07. 4. 3rd Asian Indoor Athletics Championship begins in Doha. Sinimol Paulose wins gold in 1500 m; Stephen Fleming announces retirement from test cricket; Monica Seles retires from tennis. •15. Mark Beaumont (Scotland) becomes the first to cycle around the world. Beaumont completed the trip in 195 days and six hours, beating the current record held by Steven Strange (276 days); Surya Khar Ganguly wins National A Chess Championship. K. Ratnakaran and G. N. Anupal in the second and third position; V. Sreeja Sreedharan wins gold in 3000 m at Doha Asian Indoor Athletics. •16. India wins three more gold in Asian Indoor Athletics Championship. Sinimol Paulose (1500 m), P. J. Vinod (Heptathlon) and the women's 4-400 m relay team are the Indian gold winners; Yelena Isinbayeva sets new world indoor pole vault record by clearing 4.95 metres at Sergei Bubka

invitational meet, improving her own record. •17. India bags a rich haul of five gold medals and a silver in the 5th World carrom championship at Cannes, France. India's Yogesh Pardesi clinched the men's title, defeating M. Nataraj (India) 25-23, 25-12 in the final. India's I. Ilavazhagi fetches women's title beating P. Nirmala 25-11, 25-11. The Indian men's pair of M. Nataraj and R.M. Shankara win the doubles crown. Indian women's pair of P. Nirmala and Rashmi Kumari lift the doubles title. Indian women bag the team event overcoming Sri Lanka in the final; Under-19 worldcup cricket tournament begins in Kuala Lumpur. India registers its first victory against Papua New Guinea. •18. Roger Federer wins Laureus Sportsman of the year award for the fourth straight year in the men's category. Justine Henin takes the world sports-woman of the year award. •20. Indian Premier League (IPL) auction at Mumbai. M. S. Dhoni with the highest price of 1.5 million dollar from Chennai Super Kings tops the chart. •22. North Zone lifts Duleep Trophy beating West Zone by wickets in the final •23. Dempo Sports Club clinches inaugural I League football. Churchill Brothers comes second; Anand Pawar wins badminton Austrian Badminton Open, the first Indian to achieve the feat after Syed Modi. •24. Tottenham Hotspur lifts English League cup beating Chelsea 2-1 in the final. •25. India's Ishant Sharma docked 15% of match fee for misbehaviour in the field during the ODI against Australia. •27. I League winners Dempo Sports Club lifts Super Cup beating East Bengal 1-0 at Gurgaon. •29. 14th Federation Cup Athletics held

First Women's Marathon

Grete Waltz entered her first marathon in 1978. The Norwegian was 25 then. Her performances in city marathons prompted Olympic organizers to have a women's marathon. The first person to win it was Joan Benoit at Los Angeles, 1984.

at Bhopal concludes. Jharkhand clinches overall championship. Army and Kerala finish next. Kuldev Singh of Punjab and H. M. Jyothi of Andhra Pradesh declared best athletes.

March 01. South Africa's Graeme Smith - Neil McKenzie duo break test record for highest opening stand (415 runs) held by Pankaj Roy- Vinoo Mankad pair for more than half a century. The record partnership came in the test match against Bangladesh at Chittagong. **•02.** India wins Under-19 cricket worldcup at Kuala Lumpur beating South Africa by 12 runs in the final. Man of the match- Ajithesh Argal; India wins first match against Australia in the best of three finals of the Commonwealth Bank Tri Series ODI cricket tournament. Man of the match- Sachin Tendulkar. **•07.** Viswanathan Anand wins Morelia -Linares chess tournament for the second successive year. **•08.** India with 24 gold, 19 silver and 14 bronze tops the medal tally at South Asian Athletics Championship. Sri Lanka and Pakistan comes 2nd and 3rd. **•09.** The biggest tragedy in Indian Hockey, India is out of Olympic mens hockey for the first time in 80 years following a shocking 0-2 defeat against Britain in the final of Olympic Qualifying round at Santiago; Serena Williams wins Bangalore Open Singles. Shuai Peng- Tiantian Sun wins doubles title; Arjun Atwal wins Malaysian Open Golf title; India tops medal tally of 2nd South Asian archery championship. **•10.** National hockey coach Joaquim Carvalho resigns. **•11.** Second stage of IPL auction takes place at Mumbai. Australian James

Hopes with 1.20 crores tops the auction list. **•16.** Anand Pawar lifts Portugese International badminton championship. High altitude sports training institute at Munnar, Kerala inaugurated; Former Australian cricketer Bill Brown (95) passes away. **•17.** India's I. S. Bindra named Principal Advisor of ICC. **•18.** Darrel Hair reinstated as a Test umpire by the ICC; ICC approves BCCI run IPL tournament and refuses ICL. **•22.** English batsman Marcus Trescothick announces retirement from international cricket. **•23.** Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen wins Malaysian F-1 Grand Prix; Central zone clinches Deodhar trophy. **•25.** New Zealand cricketer Stephen Fleming bids adieu from international cricket. **•26.** India - South Africa test cricket series begins in Chennai; David Beckham plays his 100th international match. He competed his 100th match at State de France during a friendly match against France. He is the fifth Englishman to reach the century milestone beyond Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore, Billy Wright and Peter Shilton. **•27.** Justine Henin named WTA player of the year. **•28.** Virender Sehwag records a triple century in Chennai test. It becomes the fastest triple in test cricket and the highest individual score by any batsman in Indian soil. **•29.** Virender Sehwag's 319 runs at Chennai is the highest individual test score by an Indian cricketer. Rahul Dravid completes 10,000 runs in test cricket, the first Indian after Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar to achieve the feat. **•30.** Chennai test ends in a draw. Man of the match- Virender Sehwag.

'Rejoice, we conquer'

'Rejoice, we conquer' - Pheidippides, the Greek courier, gasped on arriving after running 22 miles without stopping, to carry the news of the Athenians' victory over the Persian army at Marathon in 490 BC. Then he dropped dead. The marathon race commemorates

April 01. PCB imposes five year ban on Shoaib Akhtar for violating players code of conduct. Danish Kaneria severely reprimanded. •**04.** Haroon Lorget (South Africa) appointed CEO of ICC. •**05.** South Africa wins second test match of the series against India at Ahmedabad. South Africa registered their victory on the third day of the match by an innings and 90 runs. •**06.** Hyderabad Heroes clinches ICL 20s challenge tournament. In the second final of the best of three finals, the winners beat Lahore Badshahs bowl out to earn the title 2-0. Man of the tournament- Abdul Razzaq; Ferrari's Felipe Massa wins Bahrain GP. •**07.** The Beijing Olympics flame is extinguished twice during the torch relay ceremony in Paris as pro-Tibet activists launch repeated attacks. •**09.** South African all rounder Jacques Kallis named 'Leading Cricketer in the world for 2007' by Wisden Cricketers Almanac. Zaheer Khan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ian Bell, Ryan Sidebottom, Ottis Gibson named Cricketers of the year 2007. •**11.** The last match of the India- South Africa test series begins in Kanpur. Mahendra Singh Dhoni leads India thereby becoming the first wicketkeeper to captain India in a test match. •**12.** India leads 3-0 in the Asia-Oceania group 1 Davis Cup tie against Japan. The win earns India a spot in the world group playoffs. •**13.** India- South Africa test series ends in draw (1-1). India wins Kanpur test by eight wickets. Man of the match- Sourav Ganguly, Man of the series- Harbhajan Singh; Pankaj Advani wins Asian Billiards title; India wins 3-2 in the Asia-Oceania

group 1 Davis Cup tie against Japan. •**14.** Brazilian footballer Romario retires. •**17.** Delhi hosts Olympic torch relay. •**18.** Inaugural edition of IPL Twenty Cricket tournament begins in Bangalore. In the first match Sourav Ganguly led Kolkata Knight Riders defeats Rajasthan Royals. Bangalore Royal Challengers leads 140 runs. •**20.** Danica Patrick of America Green racing makes history by becoming the first ever female Indy Car winner taking the Indy Japan 300 race. •**21.** Indian Hockey Federation secretary Jothikumar resigns following a sting operation by a news channel that shows him accepting money for inclusion of a player in Indian team. •**24.** Hockey Olympian Tarlochan Bawa (85) dies in Ambala in Haryana. Bawa was a member of the Indian team which won Gold in the 1948 London Olympics. •**25.** Sreesanth physically assaulted by Mumbai Indians' captain Harbhajan Singh in an off field incident after an IPL match at Mohali. •**27.** Spaniard Rafael Nadal wins Monte Carlo Masters tennis title in the fourth successive year becoming the first man to achieve the historic feat in Open era; Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen wins the Spanish Grand Prix championship. •**28.** Indian Olympic Association suspends Indian Hockey Federation and appoints an ad hoc selection committee headed by Aslam Sher Khan; IPL bans Harbhajan Singh for the rest of the tournament for slapping Sreesanth. Harbhajan fined 1 % match fee. Mumbai Indians coach Lalchand Rajput also fined 50 % of match fee for not preventing Harbhajan from slapping Sreesanth. BCCI appoints

Milkha Singh, Anju Bobby George

Milkha Singh was the first Indian to win a Gold medal in Commonwealth Games (440yd, 1958, Cardiff). The first Indian woman athlete to win any medal in Commonwealth Games is Anju Bobby George (2002, Manchester). Anju is also the first to win a medal in World Athletics Championship (Long jump, 2003, Paris, Bronze).

Adv. Sudhir Nanavati as Commissioner to make the preliminary inquiry of the incident. •29. Former US football coach Gordon Bradley (74) passes away. •30. Air India lifts second E. K. Nayanar Memorial Gold Cup football tournament beating Sao Paulo Brazil 1-0 in the final

May 01. Dr. Ram Babu Gupta, the only Indian umpire to have stood in a cricket worldcup final passes away at London; •02. Sourav Ganguly and Shane Warne fined 10 % of their match fee by IPL following the rival captains' misconduct during the Kolkata Riders-Rajasthan Royals match at Jaipur. •03. Narain Karthikeyan grabs pole position in the Brands Hatch A-1 Grand Prix in Great Britain. He is the first Indian to seize pole position in the A-1 GP, the worldcup of Motorsport. •04. Narain Karthikeyan wins Brands Hatch A-1 Grand Prix in Great Britain. Switzerland wins first in A-1 GP championship, India in 10th position; Pak Cricket Board appellate tribunal suspends the five year ban imposed on Shoaib Akhtar for a month; Kolkata Knight Riders bowler Ishant Sharma fined 10 % of his match fee for kicking down the stumps when playing against Punjab Kings at Mohali. •05. England's Ronnie O'Sullivan captures World snooker title beating Ali Carter in the finals. •06. Indian Olympic Association announces the appointment of a five member ad hoc committee headed by Suresh Kalmadi to run the affairs of Indian men's hockey; C. H. Meghna (Kerala) and Harshal Shahi (Delhi) win National Under 9 chess championship in the girls' and boys' sections respectively. •08. Sunil Gavaskar resigns from the post of ICCs cricket

committee chairmanship. •11. Ferrari's Felipe Massa wins Turkish Grand Prix; Manchester United wins English Premier League for the tenth occasion; India wins Asia Cup womens cricket beating host Sri Lankans by 117 runs. •13. Sudhir Nanavati, commissioner inquiring the Sreesanth slapping incident, submits report to BCCI; Marlon Samuels banned for two years for passing information regarding the batting line up to an Indian bookmaker during the Nagpur ODI in 2007. •14. Zenit St. Petersburg wins UEFA Cup beating Rangers 2-0 in the final. Igor Denisov and Konstantin Zyryanov scored for the winners to earn their first European trophy; BCCI bans Harbhajan Singh for five ODIs as part of the disciplinary action taken in the Sreesanth slapping issue; World No. 1 Justin Hennessy announces retirement. •17. Portsmouth beat Cardiff 1-0 to win FA Cup for the first time since 1939 •18. Argentina lifts Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. In the final, Argentina beat India by a golden goal. Man of the final- Lucas Argento, Man of the tournament- Rehan Butt. India's Sandeep Singh with nine goals is the top scorer. New Zealand wins bronze. •21. Manchester United wins European Champions League title. In the final at Moscow, they defeat Chelsea in sudden death tie breaker. •22. Appa Sherpa climbs Mount Everest for the 18th time, breaking his own record. •24. Cheryl Bart and her daughter Nikki reach tip of Mt. Everest to become the first mother-daughter duo to climb the tallest peak; Eighth Federation Cup Junior Athletics championship and fifth National Youth championship conclude in Pune. Ker-

Asian Games

The first venue of Asian Games was New Delhi. Iran was the first Gulf country to host the Games and Qatar the first Arab country.

la earns both titles in Federation Cup. Maryana and Bengal take honours in the boys' and girls' sections respectively in the Youth championship. •25. 62nd Santosh Trophy football tournament kicked off at Srinagar; 75 year old Min Bahadur Sherchan from Nepal conquers Mount Everest, becoming the oldest to achieve the feat; McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix; Argentina lifts women's Champions Trophy hockey beating Germany 6-2 in the final at Moenchengladbach, Germany; India's Chetan Anand wins Spanish Open badminton title. •26. FIFA suspends Iraq. FIFA took action following Bagdad's decision to dissolve Iraqi Olympic Committee and other national sport federations. •27. Oliver Khan, Super goalkeeper of Germany and Bayern Munich, plays his farewell match at Kolkata Salt Lake Stadium. Munich beats Mohun Bagan 3-0. •29. FIFA lifts ban on Iraq, which remains conditional on further clarification from Iraqi government. •30. In the first semi final of IPL, Rajasthan Royal beats Delhi Daredevils by 105 runs. Man of the match- Shane Watson; Aussies captain Ricky Ponting completes 10,000 runs in test cricket. •31. Usain Bolt of Jamaica is the fastest man in the world, winning 100 metres in 9.72 seconds. He achieved the record during the Reebok Grand Prix at New York; In the second semi final of IPL, Chennai Super Kings beats Punjab Kings by eight wickets. Man of the match- Ntini.

June 01. Rajasthan Royals clinches inaugural IPL championship. Shane Warne led Royals' victory came in the last ball of the final against Chennai Super Kings.

Man of the match: Yousuf Pathan, Man of the series: Shane Watson. •03. Pa bowler Mohammed Asif arrested in Dubai Airport for keeping drugs with him. •04. IOC provisionally suspends Iraq's national Olympic Committee. The decision follows Iraq government's recent dissolution of the national body. •05. IOC decides to ban athletes from future olympic meets who had received a drug suspension of at least six months in the previous four year period. The rule will come into effect on July 1 and will be applied from 2010 Winter Olympics. •07. Ana Ivanovic of Serbia wins French Open women's title; Euro Cup 2008, jointly hosted by Switzerland and Austria, begins. •08. Rafael Nadal clinches French Open men's title beating world No. 1 Roger Federer in the final, equals Bjorn Borg's record of four straight wins at Roland Garros; BMW Sauber driver Robert Kubica grabs his first F-1 victory during Canadian Grand Prix. •14. In Colombo India badly defeated 0-1 in the hands of Maldives in the SAFF Cup Football finals. And in the Kipling Triseries cricket finals at Dhaka, arch rivals Pakistan beat India by 25 runs; Shoaib Akhtar's five year ban for disciplinary action reduced to 18 months. •15. Punjab lifts Santosh Trophy in style. Punjab retained the prestigious crown beating Services 1-0 in the final; Surendra Singh rewrites the 32-year-old national record in the 10,000 m by clocking a timing of 28:22.79s at the Nike BMC Grand Prix at Watford. The previous mark of 28:48.72s was set by distinguished athlete Hari Chand at the Montreal Olympics in 1976. •18. Ronjan Sodhi wins gold in the double trap

Suzy-Q

Rocky Marciano's right-handed punch that knocked out Jesse Joe Walcott to give him his World heavy weight title in 1952 was nicknamed Suzy-Q. Marciano, unbeaten in his 49 professional fights, was killed in an air crash.

in the shotgun worldcup at Belgrade by equalling two world records; Jharkhand clinches overall championship in the 48th National Inter State Senior Athletics held at Madurai winning 12 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze. Kerala comes second. •22. Felipe Massa of Ferrari emerges victorious in French Grand Prix. •29. Spain is the new European football champions. In the final at Vienna the Spanish beat Germans 1-0; Anaka Alankamony wins Under 15 Asian squash girls' title. Nasir Iqbal of Pakistan is the boys' champion; Pankaj Advani wins Australian Open billiards (point format-150 up); Australia wins men's Champions trophy in hockey beating Spain in the final. •30. S. Arun Prasad completes the requirements to become India's 18th chess Grandmaster.

July 05. Venus Williams lifts her fifth Wimbledon singles title beating sister Serena Williams in the final; Inaugural Asian Cricket Council (ACC) awards announced. Sachin Tendulkar and Farveez Maharoof are the best Asian ODI batsman and bowler of the year respectively. Kumar Sangakkara and Muttiah Muralitharan are the test batsman and bowler. Mithali Raj is the women's cricketer of the year. •06. Sri Lankans are the Asia Cup cricket champions; Rafael Nadal wins Wimbledon singles. Nadal beats arch rival Roger Federer; Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix; Nasim Ashraf takes charge as President of Asian Cricket Council (ACC). •14. BCCI confirms that the player tested positive for banned drug during the IPL tournament was Pak bowler Mohammad Asif (Delhi Daredevils). •15. Pak Cricket Board suspends Mohammad Asif from all competitions

until inquiry is completed by India. •18. India wins Junior Asia Cup hockey championship in style. Player of the tournament: Nam Hyun Woo (South Korea); IOA informs that SAI accepts resignation of Dr. Ric Charlesworth from the post of Technical Advisor of Indian Hockey; Indian Hockey Confederation, governing body of men's and women's hockey in India will be known by the new name Hockey India. The decision was taken by FIH and IOA at Hyderabad. •20. Lewis Hamilton wins German Grand Prix F-1 racing. •23. India- Sri Lanka test series begins in Colombo. Umpire referral system introduced on a test basis. •26. Sri Lanka wins Colombo test by innings and 239 runs. Man of the Match: Muthiah Muralitharan. •29. Yelena Isinbayeva improves her own world record as 5.04 m during the Monaco Grand Prix athletics; Ban on Iraq competing at the Beijing Olympics lifted. •31. Ajitpal Singh is the new Chairman of the adhoc selection committee of Indian Hockey.

August 01. Ashok Mankad (61), former test cricketer, passes away. •02. IOC strips gold medals from US men's 4-400 m relay team that competed at the 2004 Athens Olympics in the aftermath of Antonio Pettigrew's admission that he was doping at that time. •03. India wins second test match against Sri Lanka by 170 runs. Man of the match-Virender Sehwag; Viswanathan Anand retains rapid world chess championship at Mainz, his 11th overall championship and 9th on the trot. •05. Weightlifter L. Monika Devi withdrawn from the Indian Olympic contingent after being found positive for a steroid. •08. 29th Olympiad begins in

Taekwondo

Taekwondo, an oriental form of unarmed combat, originated in Korea. Similar to Karate, it includes both kicking and punching.

Beijing with a colourful opening ceremony; India- Sri Lanka third test begins in Colombo. •**11.** Abhinav Bindra becomes the first ever Indian to clinch an Olympic gold in individual event. He bagged gold in the 10-metre air rifle. Man of the series- Ajantha Mendis. •**13.** Michael Phelps of USA bags his 10th and 11th gold of his Olympic career to become the greatest gold winner of all times; India wins AFC Challenge football cup. •**16.** Usain Bolt from Jamaica wins 100m race with a world record timing of 9.69 secs. •**17.** Michael Phelps takes his eighth gold from Beijing Olympics to earn the most number of gold medals from a single Games. He overtook US swimmer Mark Spitz's record of seven gold in 1972; Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser becomes the fastest woman in Beijing Olympics (10.78 secs); Rafael Nadal and Elena Dementieva win tennis singles in men's and women's categories respectively; India vs Sri Lanka ODI series begins, India defeated by eight wickets. •**18.** Legendary polevaulter Yelena Isinbayeva bags gold in Olympics with new world record (5.05 m). •**19.** Leander Paes quits as captain of India's Davis Cup team, SP Misra appointed non playing captain •**20.** Sushil Kumar wins bronze in the 66 kg men's freestyle wrestling at the Beijing Games. He came through the repechage rounds to claim the medal; Usain Bolt completes sprint double in olympics. He bagged gold in 200 m with a new world record of 19.30 secs. •**22.** Vijender Kumar Singh becomes the first Indian boxer to gain an Olympic medal. Vijender was defeated in the semi finals of the middleweight (75 kg) category by Cuba's Emilo Correa and

was content with a bronze medal. •**24.** 29th Olympic Games ends with a spectacular closing ceremony. Host China tops the medal tally with 51 gold, 21 silver and 28 bronze (Total 100 medals). USA with 36 gold, 38 silver and 36 bronze (Total 110) comes second. Russia with 23 gold, 21 silver, and 28 bronze secures third place; Felipe Massa of Ferrari wins European Grand Prix; India retains World Youth (Under 16) Olympiad title at Mersin, Turkey; ICC postpones Champions Trophy until next year. •**27.** India registers their first ever bilateral ODI series in Sri Lanka. In the fourth one day at Colombo, the visitors beat Lankans by 46 runs to clinch the series 3-1. Man of the match: Suresh Raina. •**28.** Cristiano Ronaldo named UEFA European Club footballer of the year. •**31.** Santosh Kumar and Preeja Sridharan wins Chennai Marathon.

September 04. Leander Paes - Cara Black pair wins US Open Mixed doubles beating Liezel Huber - Jamie Murray duo 7-6(6), 6-4 in the finals. •**05.** Pankaj Advani wins world billiards championship (point format) in Bangalore. He beat Geeth Sethi in the final. •**06.** Paralympics Games begins at Beijing. •**07.** Mahindra United wins 121st Durand Cup. In the final the Mumbai club defeated reigning champion Churchill Brothers during extra time; Felipe Massa wins Belgium GP racing; Serena Williams lifts US Open womens title. •**08.** Roger Federer is the US Open singles champion; 48th National Open Athletics Championship begins at Kochi. •**10.** Pankaj Advani takes world billiards championship in time format. He defeated Devendra

The Gold Glove

The Gold Glove is an MLB award for fielding excellence. American Greg Maddux won 17 between 1990 and 2007—that is a record.

oshi 2368-2022; ICC awards; Shivnarine Chanderpaul is the best cricketer, MS Dhoni player of the year • **11.** Railways tops in 18th National Open Athletics • **14.** Saina Nehwal wins Chinese Taipei Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Taiwan; Sebastian Vettel is the youngest driver to win a F-1 race in Italian Grand Prix. • **17.** Paralympics: China 89 gold medal • **27.** Rest of India wins Irani Trophy; K. Srikanth appointed Chairman of Indian senior cricket selection committee • **28.** First ever night race in Formula One in Singapore. Renault driver Fernando Alonso wins • **29.** P. Harikrishna wins Spice Cup chess • **30.** ICC announces rule changes for one day cricket; Ric Charlesworth is coach of Australian mens hockey.

October 05. Chetan Anand wins Bitburger Open in Germany, V. Diju - Jwala Gutta duo wins doubles title • **12.** Fernando Alonso wins Japanese grand prix; 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games starts in Pune • **13.** First match of India - Australia test series ends in a draw. Man of the match- Zaheer Khan • **17.** nd Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar is the highest run getter in test cricket. He surpassed the record held by West Indies legendary batsman Brian Lara (11, 953). Sachin completes 12, 000 runs in test. Sourav Ganguly enters the 7, 000 runs club. These records were born in the first day of the second test against Australia in Mohali • **18.** 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games concludes. India with 33 gold, 26 silver and 17 bronze tops medal tally • **19.** Indian golfer Arjun Atwal clinches his maiden title in the US - Nationwide Tour's Chattanooga Classic, earning him a ticket to the PGA Tour next season; Lewis Hamilton wins Chinese Grand Prix • **20.** MCC announces that Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar



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*Conditioning

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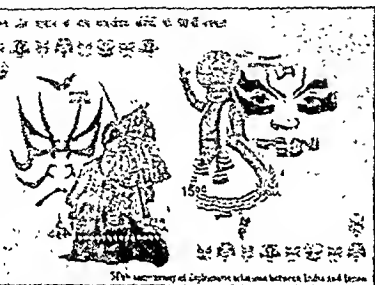
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Philately

An educator named Rowland Hill of England is considered the Father of philately. The world's first postage stamp was issued in 1840 by Great Britain. Two years later stamps were used by a private postal service in New York. Brazil



and two Swiss cantons (Zurich and Geneva) were the next to issue stamps. The U.S. used its first stamps on July 1, 1847. India's first stamp appeared in 1852.

The bits of coloured paper were a curiosity and used specimens were retained by some people. Thus the hobby was born. The interest spread rapidly and everywhere men and women began hunting for used stamps of different countries. By 1850, the hobby had taken root.

Today stamp-collecting is the world's most popular hobby. It is described as the hobby of kids and kings'.

What makes a stamp precious is rarity, demand and good condition. There are many philatelic gems which are much

sought after. Many of these are stamps with errors in printing. A good example is the one-penny Mauritius stamp of 1847 on which the inscription happened to be 'Post Office' instead of 'Post Paid', by mistake. There are hundreds of stamps which are valued above 1,000 dollars.

In recent times the study of stamps has been taken up by many. Research papers on philately are published often. There are museums of stamps and philatelic libraries, not to mention the umpteen stamp clubs. Stamp catalogues, albums and other accessories for the stamp collector are sold in large numbers every day. Philatelic exhibitions and stamp auctions are regular events in many cities. There are also journals devoted to philately and we hear about philatelic journalists. Many modern newspapers have stamp departments to cater for the tastes of their stamp-loving readers.



Stamps have a new face now. They are a form of investment, like paintings or share certificates. In advanced countries, stamp investment has reached a high degree of growth. Indians too

are now investing in stamps. Reports say that considerable amount of money is being invested in stamps in India and China.

First Airmail

The first official airmail in the world was between Allahabad and Naini. On February 18, 1911 L. Pecquet flew a biplane carrying mail in connection with the United Provinces Exhibition.

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● IIFM is a leading sectoral management institute in Asia and ranked 2nd among the country's leading sectoral management schools. IIFM also stands at 9th position in ranking of top Govt. aided Business Schools in India based on the scoring on different parameters. The Institute is engaged at global level in various educational, research, training and consultancy activities with international leaders like ITTO, FAO, UNDP, USFS.

● The Institute's Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management Programme (PGDFM) is recognized by AICTE & AIU. 100% campus placement, highest annual package of apps. Rs. 20.00 lakh (overseas) & Rs. 8.00 lakh (Indian) for the last batch, Organizations that participated in campus recruitments are Olam International, HDFC, ICICI, ITC Ltd. CMFR, Asia Carbon, Aid-et-Action, India bulls, FWWB, NCDEX, Aditya Birla group, J.K. Corps etc. Monthly stipend from Swedish International Development Agency for all selected students. IIFM provides world class infrastructure to its students including 24 hrs internet

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● Details of admission procedure are available at our website www.iifm.ac.in/admission. For further information, mail to admission@iifm.ac.in

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● Conducting MDPs is a key activity of IIFM, catering to the diverse training needs of personnel from government departments, NGOs, industry, academic institutions and other professionals. The MDPs have been designed with the objective of providing - insights into managerial concepts and techniques relevant for the forestry, development and

environmental sectors; formulating and implementing strategies in functional areas; and an overall perspective for decision making by integrating functional and general management approaches. For further information, visit www.iifm.ac.in/mdp.

● IIFM also undertakes Research & Consultancy assignments in collaboration with national and international organisations. IIFM is also actively engaged at global level, collaborating with leaders like ITTO, FAO, UNDP, USFS etc.

With growing importance of Environmental Management, there is further focus to attain synergy between forest and environment. Management of both of these has implications for livelihood aspects. Realizing this fact, IIFM has opened up new streams within its various academic programmes in order to seek integration among environment management, forestry management, and concerns of livelihood. This will gain further momentum with growing corporate sector involvement through Corporate Social Responsibility.

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Interesting Philatelic Facts

The first postage stamp of the world:
Penny Black

Date of issue of the first stamp: *May 1, 1840*

The first stamp was available for sale to the public on: *May 6, 1840*

The first stamp of India:
Scinde Dawk.

The year India's first stamp appeared: *1852*

The year of issue of the first postcard: *1869*

The first country to issue the postcard: *Austria*

The date of issue of the first stamp of Travancore: *October 16, 1888*

■ The date of issue of the first stamp of Cochin: *April 1, 1892*

■ The man who was responsible for the first stamp of the world: *Sir Rowland Hill*



■ The personality depicted on Penny Black: *Queen Victoria of England*

■ What is the study of post cards called?: *Deltiology*

■ The date of issue of Independent India's first stamps: *November 21, 1947*

■ The price of the first stamp of India with the state emblem, the Ashoka Capital: *1.5 annas*

■ Whose birth centenary had a com-



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- commemorative stamp on July 23, 1956:
 ■ *J. Gangadhar Tilak*
 ■ The first person depicted on free India's stamp: *Mahatma Gandhi (1948)*
 ■ The first woman to appear on an Indian stamp: *Meera Bai*
 ■ The world's costliest stamp: *British Guiana, 1 cent, 1856*
 ■ The disciple of Jesus Christ on whom a commemorative stamp was issued: *St. Thomas*
 ■ The inscription on Indian stamps until 1882: *East India Postage*
 ■ The country with the largest number of post offices: *India*
 ■ The slogan used for stamping the mail on the first Independence Day: *Jai Hind*
 ■ The oldest postal services in the world: *In China, 4000 B.C.*
 ■ The oldest state post of modern times permitting the circulation of private correspondence: *France, 1464*
 ■ The only countries to grant their citizens free postage: *Andorra and Greenland*
 ■ The first stamp issued outside the UK: *New York City, Feb. 1, 1842*
 ■ The first stamp in Asia: *Scinde Dawk of India.*
 ■ The first African stamp: *Cape of Good Hope triangulars, Sept. 1, 1853*
 ■ The first government issue of stamps outside the U.K: *Zurich, Switzerland (March 1, 1843)*
 ■ Beginning of Post Office savings bank in India: *1882*
 ■ The introduction of postal index number (PIN) in India: *August 15, 1972*
 ■ The year India achieved the world record of one lakh post offices: *1968*
 ■ The year inland letter card was introduced: *1950*
 ■ The first international philatelic exhibition was held in : *Frankfurt (1887)*

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OBITUARY

World

2007 November 21. Ian Smith, 88, Rhodesia's last Prime Minister • **26.** Vladimir Kryuchkov, 83, former head of the KGB • **30.** Henry Hyde, 83, former Republican Congressman known in India for the Hyde Act related to the Indo-US nuclear deal.

December 25. Oscar Peterson, 82, jazz legend • **27.** Benazir Bhutto, 54, PPP leader and twice Pakistan Prime Minister (assassinated).

2008 January 10. Johnny Grand, 84, honorary mayor of Hollywood • Edmund Hillary, 88, adventurer who conquered the Everest • **16.** Roger Anger, 84, chief architect of the international township of Auroville • **23.** Heath Ledger, 28, Australia-

lian film star *Brokeback Mountain*. • **27.** Suharto, 86, former Indonesian President; George Habash, Palestinian leader • **29.** Zhang Hanzhi, former interpreter of Mao Zedong.

February 9. Sripathi Soonayarachchi, 45, Sri Lanka dissident leader • **10.** Roy Scheider, 75, actor known for his role as the heroic police chief in 1975 movie 'Jaws' • **23.** Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios, 81, Metropolitan of the Canada-UK-European diocese of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.

March 16. Anura Bandaranaike, 59, former Sri Lanka minister and senior SLFP leader • **17.** Bill Brown, 95, a member of the 1948 Australian 'Invincible Team' batsman who made a century in his first Test at Lord's in 1934 • **19.** Arthur C. Clarke

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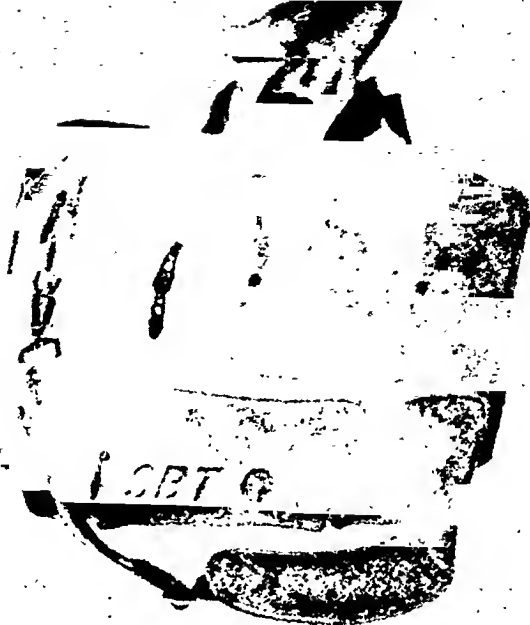
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0, visionary science fiction writer, space promoter, author of over 100 books. Introduced the concept of communications satellite; Anthony Minghella, 54, won Best Director Oscar for 'The English Patient' •20. Paul Scofield, 86, British actor, Oscar for 'A Man for All Seasons'.

April •6. Charlton Heston, 84, US actor, Oscar ('Benhur') •29. Albert Hofman, 82, the Swiss chemist who gave the world LSD.

May 5. Colin Murdoch, 79, inventor of the disposable syringe •12. Irena Sendler, 98, who saved 2500 Jewish children from the Nazi Holocaust •27. Sydney Pollack, 73, film director and producer. 'Out of Africa'.

June 2. Yves Saint Laurent, 71, French designer who revolutioned women's clothing in the 1960s; Bo Diddley, 79, rhythm and blues musician •14. Tim Russert, 58, NBC's Washington bureau chief.

July 8. John Templeton, 95, pioneering mutual fund manager •12. Michael DeBakey, 99, Cardiovascular surgeon who pioneered bypass surgery, described as the greatest surgeon of the 20th century.



Solzhenitsyn

August 4. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, 89, Russian scholar and writer, 89. Nobel Prize. *The Gulag Archipelago, The First Circle, Cancer Ward*; •10. Mahmud Darwish, 67, Palestinian poet; Bernie Mac, 50, actor, comedian.

September 29. Paul Newman, 83, legendary Hollywood actor. Oscar 1987 'The Color of Money'.

October 1. Boris Yefimov, 109, Russian cartoonist.

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2007 November 13. Kalamandalam Sankaran Embranthiri, 64, Kathakalisinger • **18.** R.S. Pathak, 82, former CJI.

December 17. Tejeshwar Singh, 60, former Doordarshan news reader and Managing Editor of SAGE India • **18.** Moizur Rehman, 58, Rajya Sabha member and RJD general secretary • **21.** Teji Bachchan, 90, mother of Amitabh Bachchan • **25.** G.P. Sippy, 93, Bollywood producer-director, 'Sholay'.

2008 January 5. P.P. George, 73, former Agriculture minister of Kerala • **6.** Dr. P.K. Sethi, 80, inventor of Jaipur foot • **7.** Shamim Hussain, 40, son of beautician Shahnaz Hussain • **11.** Y.D. Phadke, 77, political scientist and Marathi litterateur • **24.** Usha Narayanan, 86, wife of former President K.R. Narayanan • **29.** Gopi, 71, actor, winner of Bharath award • **29.** Baby John, 88, RSP leader, former Kerala minister • **31.** R.K. Karanjia, 95, journalist, former editor of 'Blitz'.

February 8. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a guru to the Beatles, introduced transcendental meditation to the West • **7.** Kunal Singh, 31, actor • **9.** Baba Amte, 94, most renowned social activist, worked among leprosy patients. Padma Bhushan, Magsaysay Award, Templeton Prize, Gandhi Peace Prize • **17.** Manorama, 81, yesteryear actor comedienne • **19.** Basavarajeshwari, 86, former Union Minister • **20.** D.G.S. Dhinakaran, 72, evangelist, founded Karunya University • **21.** Amaresh Bagchi, 77, economist, public finance expert, author • **25.** Justice H.R. Khanna, 95, former judge of Supreme Court • **27.** Sulochana Pattabhiraman, 76, Carnatic musician and musicologist • **28.** 'Sujata' (S. Rangarajan's pen-name), 72, multi-faceted Tamil writer.

March 19. Raghuvaran, 49, veteran Tamil actor • **23.** Justice K.G. Shah, 73, of Shah-Nanavati Commission probing the Godhra carnage and riots • **25.** K.T.

Muhammad, 79, Malayalam playwright and scriptwriter • **31.** Kadammanitta Ramakrishnan, 73, poet, former M.L.A.

April 17. Mohammad Maqbool, 65, former Union Minister.

May 1. Nirmala Deshpande, 79, Gandhian, social activist, writer • **10.** Pandit Firoz Dastur, 89, the doyen of Hindustani classical music • **13.** Neyyattinkara Vasudevan, 68, musician • **15.** Henry Austin, 88, former Union Minister • **19.** Vijay Tendulkar, 80, eminent Marathi playwright • **19.** R.N. Jayagopal, 73, Kannada film lyricist.

June 8. Alladi Ramakrishnan, 85, founder of Institute of Mathematical Science • **8.** Karthika Thirunal Lakshmi Bai, 92, senior most member of the ruling family of erstwhile Travancore. • **11.** Pala Narayanan Nair, 97, Malayalam poet. • **25.** G.M. Banatwala, 74, IUML president, seven-time M.P. from Kerala • **27.** Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw, 94, Military Cross, Padma Vibhushan. A great war hero, who masterminded the victory over Pakistan in 1971 and helped create Bangladesh.

July 3. Ammannur Madhava Chakyar, leading Koodiyattam exponent. • **14.** Y.V. Chandrachud, , former CJI. • **26.** Santha P. Nair, 79, Malayalam playback singer.

August 1. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, 92, Marxist leader, former General Secretary CPI(M) • **1.** Syed Ummer Baffakki Thangal, 87, IUML leader • **16.** Dhanakumari Ghising, wife of GNLf leader Ghising • **23.** Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati, 81, Hindu leader heading the VHP movement in Kandhamal in Orissa. • **30.** K.K. Birla, 90, industrialist.

September 2. Thomas Bata, 93, head of Bata Shoe Co. • **2.** H.Y. Sharada Prasad, 84, media adviser to former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi • **9.** P.N. Menon, 82, film maker.

October 3. R.S. Lodha, 66, industrialist. Involved in Birla will controversy • **20.** Sridhar, 75, veteran director of Tamil cinema.



The Global Crisis: Recession Fears

failures of large financial institutions in the US rapidly evolved into a global crisis in 2008, resulting in a number of European bank failures and declines in various stock markets, and significant reductions in the market-value of equities and commodities worldwide. Three of the Big Five of Wall Street disappeared. Lehman Brothers went bankrupt. Merrill Lynch was absorbed by Bank of America. Bear Stearns was taken over by J.P. Morgan. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the two largest home mortgage lending institutions of the US were rescued from bankruptcy by their effective takeover by the government. 80% of the insurance giant AIG was also similarly taken over.

Major banks and other financial institutions around the world had reported losses of \$435 billion as of July. The crisis led to a liquidity problem and the de-leveraging

of financial institutions especially in the US and Europe, which further accelerated the liquidity crisis. World political leaders and national ministers of finance and central bank directors coordinated their efforts to reduce fears but the crisis was continuing. Leaders from the EU's 27 countries in October vowed to overhaul the global financial system and protect the continent's industry.

India

On Oct. 24, FIIs shed a record quantity of Indian stocks sending the Sensex plunging 11 p.c. The index collapsed to 2005 levels, breaching the 9000-mark.

Reserve Bank of India Governor D. Subbarao said on Oct. 25 that India's growth story will continue despite a slight deceleration, but there would be no recession as in some advanced countries.

Stop Press

Awards & Honours

Bharat Ratna: Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Hindustani classical vocalist

National River: The Ganga (to be declared)

Classical Language status: Kannada & Telugu

Appointments

President

Pakistan: Asif Ali Zardari

South Africa: Kgalema Motlanthe

Prime Minister

Japan: Taro Aso

Pakistan: Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani
Thailand: Somchai Wongsawat

Chief Minister

Puducherry: V. Vaithyalingam

Others: Hon. Economic Advisor to PM. Raghuram G. Rajan

Retirement

Anil Kumble retires from international cricket.

Obituary

B.R. Chopra, 94, legendary film-maker, brother of Yash Chopra. Waqt, Kanoo serial Mahabharat

Index

A

Agreement	853-59
Admi bhima yojana	57B
Admissions	B08-20
Admises	474
Admission	766
Admission	B08-20
Admission	486
Admission	296-47B
Admission	956-58
Admission	914, 915
Admission	676
Admission	980
Admission	802-04
Admission	821-22
Admission	766
Admission	76
Afghanistan chronology	296-97, 870, 3B
Afghanistan	490
African Unity Org	217
Ageing	766
Agent orange	556-67, 530
Agriculture	515
Agriculture college	524
Agriculture exam	485
Agriculture fund	227
AIDS	957
AIIMS address	931
Air Force Chief India	609-11
Air Force India	507
Air pollution	607-08
Air traffic	489
Air transport association	207
Aircraft first	174
Aircraft, largest	940
Airports India	235-36
Sh ganga	297-9B
ania	63B
oholism	759
oxie, Sherman	298-99
geria	759
i, Monica	767
zheimer's disease	677
mbedkar, BR	554-55
amendments India	464-67
merica	865
merican civil war	490
American states org	491-92,
Amnesty International	489, 956
Amte, Baba	677

Anand, Viswanathan	990-91, 966
Andaman Nicobar	669-71
Andhra Pradesh	626-27
Andorra	299
Angola	299-300
Anguilla	464
Animal first fly	204
Animal intelligence	950
Animal welfare board	95B
Animals endangered	941-43
Anniversary days	926-28
Antigua & Barbuda	300-01
Antimatter	242-43
Antioxidants	218
Antonyms	795
APEC	486
Aphorism	76B
Appointments India	936-3B
Arab League	485-B6
Arctic research	194
Area nations	296-47B
Area States India	626-74
Argentina	301-02
Arjuna award	993
Armenia	302-03
Army India	609-11
Army Chief India	930-31
Army China	797
Arts award	904-05
Arts training	515
Aruba island	405
Arunachal Pradesh	627-29
Arya samaj	769
Asafoetida	45B
ASEAN	486
Asia Pacific cooperation	486
Asia Politics 2008	32-43
Asian Dev Bank	486
Asom (Assam)	629-30
Asteroids	242
Astronomy	234-35
Athletics records	997-1000
Atlantic charter	769
Atmosphere	256-57
Atom structure	234
Atomic bomb first	54
Atomic clock	60B
Atomic energy	202-11, 859
Atomic number	B60-62
Atomic radiation	207-11
Atwood, Margaret	760

Auction	461
Aurora	769
Auroras, polar	241
Australia	303-05, 50-54
Austria	305-06
Autobiography	951
Awards	B94-907
Awards, firsts	796
Ayurveda college	515
Azerbaijan	306
Azmi, Shabana	680

B

Bachchan, Amitabh	680
Backward class commission	957
Bacterial disease	226
Bahamas	306-07
Bahrain	307-08
Balance of power	765
Balanced diet	214-15
Bamboo	566, 64
Bamboo curtain	769-77
Bangladesh chronology	7
Bangladesh 308-10, B69, 29-	9
Bank deposits	585
Banking India	7
Baptism	3
Barbados	300
Barbuda	863
Battles, famous	
Beauty queens India	
Beauty queens	
Bee	31
Belarus	3
Belgium	3
Belize	
Benin	
Berlusconi, Silvio	
Bermuda	
Basant, Annie	
Bhakti movement	
Bharat Ratna	
Bhutan	313-15, 54
Bhulia, Baichung	
Bhutto, Benazir	
Big Bang experiment B6	6
Bihar	
Bihar flood	
Biofuel threat	
Biofuel	
Biography	67

dhok, Karun	996	Churchill, Winston	688	Concentration camp	775
digarh	671-72	Cinema, firsts	797	Congo	333-34
drayan	182-88	Circumcision	774	Congo, DR	332-33, 56
nel islands	464	CIS	487	Congress Presidents	939-40
s India	966	Cities Population	551, 748	Congress women Presidents	905
s cricket ground	966	Cities World	738-58	Constitution India	553-55
ttisgarh	632-33	Civil aviation org	484	Consulate Nations	296-478
ng Kai-shek	688	Civil aviation	607-08	Contents	5-22
f Justice India	929-30	Civil service exam	520-21	Continent, population	290
f Minister women	936	Climate India	530	Continental dnft	249
f ministers	625	Clipped words	844-45	Continents	250
ungunya fever	230-31	Cloning	231, 471	Copernicus, Nicolas	689
ungunya	773	Clouds	257	Copy writing	821-22
e	327-28	Coast Guard	610	Corporation first	587
ia chronology	74	Coastline length	754	Cosmos	233-70
ia President	921	Coconut Board	958	Costa Rica	334-35
ia	328-331, 52, 397	Coetzee, JM	765	Cote D'Ivoire	335-36
ese revolution	865	Colleges India	513-16	Cotton	634
oco movement	773	Colombia	331-32	Court International	480, 488
ranjeevi	64	Colour blindness	774	Court martial	775
lestrol	228	Comets	241-42	Cow disease	817
istians attack on	60	Commemorative days	926-28	Cricket C8 series	964-65
onology education	584	Commonwealth	487, 484	Cricket ICC award	994
onology India History	533-48	Comoros	332	Cricket India SA series	972-73
onology India	132-80	Competitive exam	518-26	Cricket India SL test	989-90
onology sports	1000-09	Composting	213	Cricket IPL	975-76
onology world	86-130	Computers	274-88	Cricket Under 19 WC	988-89



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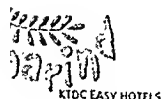


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Crimean war	863	Discoveries	232	Engineering college	514
Croatia	336-37	Disease	224-31	English phrase	821-45
Crop season	530	Districts India	626-74	English writers	596-97
Crops GM	66, 544	Diu & Daman	672-73	Entertainment industry	615
Cryptography	775	Djibouti	340-341	Entrance exams	521-26
CSE Address	957	DNA woman	221	Environment	265-70
Cuba	337, 50	DNA	219	Environment, CSE	957
Culture India	578-83	Doctors India	509	Environment, UN	481-82
Culture states	626-74	Dominica	341-42	Epilepsy	229
Cune, Marie	690	Dominican Rep	342	Eponyms	830-39
Currency exchange rate	943	Doomsday, digital	288	Equatorial Guinea	345-46
Currency nations	291-95	Doping sportsmen	991-92	Entrea	346
Current Affairs	46	Drama India	598-603	Estonia	346-347
Cyprus	338	DRDO	610	Ethiopia	347-48
Cyprus, Turkish	474, 50	Drug sports	457	European Union	487-88, 871
Czech Republic	338-39	Durg sports	991-92	Euthanasia	224, 120, 780
		Dutch Territories	405	Events India History	533-48
		Dutt, Nargis	692	Events India	132-80
		Dwarf planets	246, 236	Events sports	1000-09
				Events World	86-130

D

Da Vinci Code, The	760-61			Everest	721, 696, 725
Dadra	672				820, 890, 974
Dailies India	605			Examinations	518-26
Dalai Lama	690			Exoplanets	243
Dalits	549-50, 626-74			Explosion, loudest	212
Daman & Diu	672-73			Extradition	555, 780
Dances India	604			Eye disease	226
Darsanas	958				
Darwin, Charles	690, 762				
Days Important	926-28				
Death 2007	1023-24				
Death Natural calamity	954				
Decathlon	977				
Defence India	609-11				
Delhi	668-69				
Delphic oracle	740				
Dementia	475				
Democracy Institute	487				
Dengue fever	776, 231				
Denmark	339-40				
Density India	626-74				
Desai, Kiran	761				
Desai, Morarji	691				
Desai, Prasun	949				
Desalination	777				
Desert India	530				
Deserts	251				
Deshpande, Shashi	596-97				
Design Institute	515				
Dhingra, Madan Lal	543				
Diana, Princess	691				
Dictatorship	555				
Digestive system	222				
Dinosaur	196				
Dipika Pallikkal	981-82				
Disabled job	511				

E

Earth	248-64, 247				
Earthquake	253-55				
East Asian crisis	872				
East Timor	342				
Ebrahim, Armaan	996				
Eclipses	257				
Economic social council	480				
Economy India	568-71				
Economy Nations	296-478				
Economy States	626-74				
Economy World	867-73,				
	493-98, 1025				
Ecosoc	480				
Ecuador	343				
Education India	584				
Education	503-16				
Education, firsts	796-97				
Educational institutions	513-16				
EEC	487-88				
Egypt	343-44				
Eiffel, Alexandro	693				
Einstein, Albert	192, 236, 693				
El Nino	259				
El Salvador	344-45				
Election commission	930, 956				
Elephant dung	456				
Eleventh 5 year plan	595				
Email Embassy	296-478				
Embassy Address	296-478				
Emblem India	531				
Endangered rivers	944				
Endangered species	941-43				
Energy, atomic	202-11, 859				

F

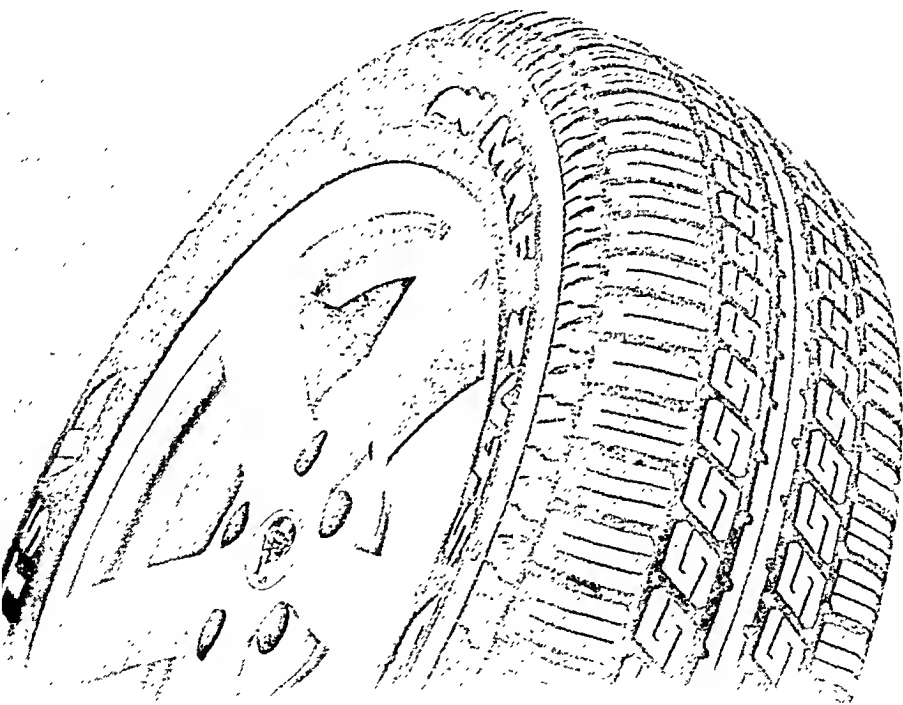
Facebook	285				
Falklands war	865				
Famous, profile	676-737				
FAQ	482-83				
Farming season	530				
Fashion design	515				
Fat	215				
Federer, Roger	978-79				
Fever, viral	230				
Fibre optics	780				
FICCI address	957				
Fiction, famous	759-65				
Fiji	348-49				
Filibustering	780, 555				
Film award, India	903-04, 907-11				
Film awards	903-11				
Film firsts	797				
Film Hindi	916-19				
Film India first	162				
Film Institutes	515				
Finland	349-50				
First, Film India	162				
Firsts, records	796-807				
Five year plans	552-53, 595				
Flag India	531				
Flag nations	296-478				

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od Bihar	64	Gabon	351-52	Ghosh, Amitav	764
oor crossing	555, 780	Galaxy	235	Gibran, Khalil	697
ring saucer	781	Gambia	352-53	GK	675-958
ring saucer	194	Games, first venue	979, 983	Glands	222
od crisis	500-02	Gandhi cap	535	Global warming	264, 782
od Irradiated	210	Gandhi, Mahatma	695,	Globe	261
od nutrient	217		539-42, 635	Glow worm	200
od price India	570-71	Gandhi, Sonia	696	GM crops	544, 66
od triangle	216	Gangotri glacier	637	Goa	633-34
od	214-218	Garbage	212-14	Gold production	329
otball association	968, 973	Garlic	217	Gold standard	867-68
otball Euro 2008	967-68	Gas reserve	429	Good morning	944
otball India	968-69	Gates, Bill	696	Gopalakrishnan Adoor	697
oreign relations India	26-30	Gateway of India	541	Gopalakrishnan, Kris	272-74
rest India	530	GCC	488-89	Gorbachev, Mikhail	697
urth world	423	General assembly	480	Gorilla	199
ance President	921	General knowledge	675-958	Government Nations	296-478
ance	350-51	Genetic disorder	228-29	Government, firsts	798-801
ee trade	781	Geography India	529	Governors India	625
edom struggle	536-42	Geography States	626-74	Governors women	954
ench community	488	George, Anju Bobby	982-83,	Graf, Steffi	698
ench revolution	864		1004	Greece	355-356
og, poisonous	206	Georgia	353-54, 58	Greek alphabet	843
ull forms	808-20	Germany Chancellor	921	Green living	217
		Germany	354-55	Greenhouse effect	782
		Gerrymander	782	Greenland	451, 453
		Ghana	355	Gregorian calendar	532

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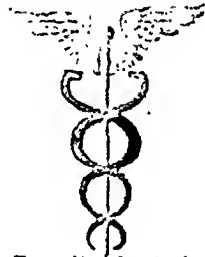
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488
611
357-58
782-83
698
783
358
359-60
634-36
698
uncil 488-89
873
359

H

abeas Corpus	783	IDA
adron collider	860-62	IELTS
air style	504	IFC
airti	360, 94	IIT ex
alleys comet	469	llava
Handicapped job	511	ILO
Hanif, Mohammed	760	Ima
Haryana	636-38	IMF
Hazarika, Bhupen	128	Imr
Heart attack signs	228	Im
Heart disease	537, 152	Inc
Heart	220	Inc
Heavy water	207	
Helicopter	361	
Heritage sites Unesco	945, 50	
Herzegovina	316-17	
Heteronyms	795	
High Courts India	955	
High Courts	626-74	
Highest place	250	
Himachal Pradesh	638-39	
himadri	194	
historical places	738-58	
history India	533-48	
History Nations	296-478	
Hitchcock, Alfred	700	
Hobby, philately	1010-22	
Hockey India	970-71	
Judo	971	
Homonyms	795	
Honduras	360-61	
Honey-guide	198	
Hong Kong	330	
Horn of Africa	437	
Hospital industry	572-77	
Hotel management	516, 525	

Hubble shuttle	230
Human body	219-23
Human rights commission	956
Human Rights, UN	482
Humanism award	905
Hume, AO	892
Hundred days	433
Hungary	361-62
Hurricane names	923
Hurricane	259
Huxley, Aldous	701

1

IAEA	482
IATA	489
IARD	483, 868-69
ICC Awards 2007	994
Iceland	362-63, 496, 853, 468, 477
IDA	483
IELTS	521
IFC	48
IIT exams	523-2
Ilavazhagi	99
ILO	48
Imaging instruments	229-
IMF	483, 868-
Immunity	223, 3
Impeachment	7
Incinerators	
Independence 1st war	863

Independence day	296-478
Nations	536-4
Independence India	60-68, 132-8
India 2007	92
India bom famous	28, 4
India China	132-8
India events 2007	533-
India history	26-
India Neighbour states	26-
India Pakistan relations	26-
India President, PM	9
India SAARC	85-
India US nuclear deal	527-
India	363-6
Indonesia	62
Infant mortality India	27
Infectious disease	568-71
Inflation India	271
Information technology	9
Innovaion sports	
INSAT	
Insects	

Instrument, music	229-30
Instruments, medical	590-91
Insurance India	562, 485
Intellectual property	515
Interior design	480, 488
International Court	281-88
Internet	489
Interpol	504-13
Interview	232
Inventions	586
Investment Commission	951
Investment, banks	364-65, 824, 48
Iran	76-78
Iran chronology	365-66, 871
Iraq	366-67
Ireland	784-85
ISDN	701
Isinbayeva, Yelena	491
Islamic conference org	253
Islands	464, 462
Isle of man	367-68
Israel	611
ISRO	272-74
IT Business	368-69, 54
Italy	335-36
Ivory coast	

1

Jamaica	37
Jammu Kashmir	639-41, 6
Jana gana mana. . .	53
Japan	370-371, 4
Jet engine, first	2
Jharkhand	641-42,
Jinnah, Mohammed Ali	897
Jnanpith award	
Joan of Arc	
Johnson, Magic	702, 714,
Johnson, Samuel	371
Jordan	
Journalism award	
Journalism school	9
Judges, India SC	55
Judicial review	
Jukebox	
Jupiter	

K

Kalam, APJ Abdul
Kalidasa
Kamal, Achanta Sharath
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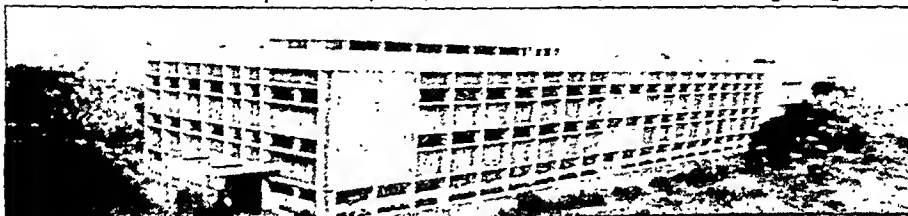


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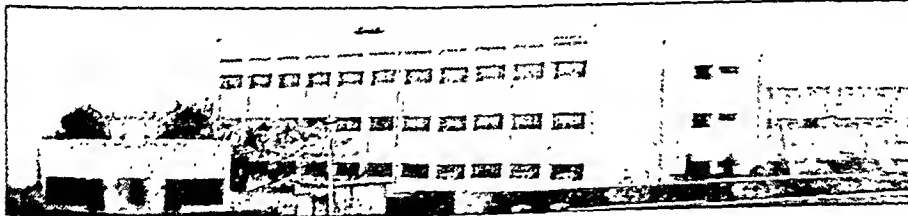


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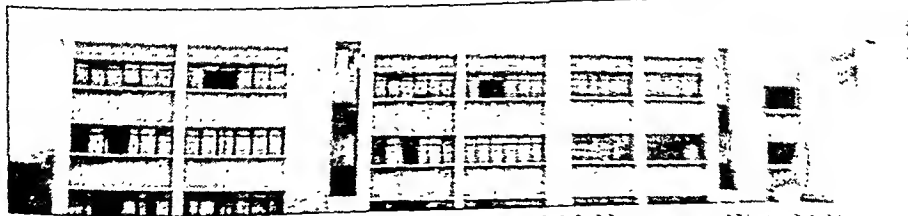
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ps, Michael	720	Primates	470	Religious places	626-74
ately	1010-13	Prime Minister India		Remote sensing	611
ippines	418-19	956, 929		Research & development	612-20
ibias	941	Prime minister, UK	922	Retail business	652
enix (Mars)	244	Principe	428-29	Revolt 1857	863-64, 887
ases English	821-40	Prisoners	405	Revolutions	864-65
re, D8C	765	Privy purse	790-91	Rh factor	791
rim centres	626-74	Products	232	River longest	381
i, Abhilash	598-603	Protein	215,225	Rivers endangered	944
ce name change	758	Provident Fund office	957	Rivers India	529-30
ce names, meanings	42	PSLV	611	Rivers	252
ce nick names	923-25	Publications	605	Road India	607
ce records	253, 382	Puducherry	673	Robot surgeon	197
ces, historical	738-58	Puerto Rico	467	Robot	520
net superlatives	246	Pulitzer prize	698	Romania	423-24
nets	243	Punjab	64, 656-57	Rowling, JK	724, 711
nnning Commission	958	Puranas characters	949	Roy, Raja Rammohun	883
nnning, India	552-53	Purānas	946	Rulers foreigner	922
sey battle	863	Putin, Vladimir	737	Rulers women	920
te tectonics	250	Pyda, Nagesh	585-87	Rural population	551
y house	599			Rushdie, Salman	725, 764
cast	285			Russia chronology	74-76
son gas	214			Russia	424-26, 48-50, 74, 421
Pot	720			Russia, rulers	922
and	419-20, 446			Rwanda	426-27, 930
ar auroras	241				
ice India	517				
itical parties	626-74				
iticians women	947, 948				
lution control board	958				
lution water	374				
lution	265-70, 507, 650				
ndicherry	673				
population 2008	290				
population density	947				
population fund, UN	481				
population India	551-52				
population Nations	296-478				
population, States	626-74				
orts India	606-07				
ortugal	421-22				
ostal union	484				
otato year	420				
otato	556				
verty	492, 539, 68				
ower reactors	202-07, 859				
oja Rajyam	64				
akash, BA	568-71, 592-95				
asannan R	853-59				
esident India salary	140				
esident, Address	956				
esident, USA, France, China	921				
esidents India	929				

Q

Qatar	422-23
Quiz	874-90

R

Races India	549
Radhakrishnan S	721
Radiation technology	207-11
Radio India	605
Radiopharmaceuticals	208-09
Rai, Aiswarya	722
Railway India	606
Railway underground	850
Rajagopalachari, C	722
Rajasthan	657-59
Rajya Sabha party position	935
Rajya Sabha seats	626-74
Raman CV	722, 191
Ramanujan S	190-92
Rao, K Srinivasa	190-92
Rastafarianism	438
Reactor Nuclear	202-07, 859
Recession	1026
Records	914-15, 796-807
Recycling waste	214
Red Cross	492
Red cross, India	956-57
Refugees, UN	482
Relativity theory	236
Religion India	549
Religion Nations	296-478

S

SAARC	407, 30, 491
SADR	477
Sahrawi Arab rep	477
Saka'calendar	532
Saleem, Namira	838
Samadhis	70
Samoa	427
San Marino	428, 358
Sangeet Natak Akademi	957
Sao Tome	428-29
Sarabhai, Vikram	726
SARS	227
Satellite India	611
Saturn	247
Saudi Arabia	429-30, 823
SC & ST	549-50, 626-74
SC ST Commission	957
Scheduled caste	549-50, 626-74
Schengen agreement	848
Schizophrenia	229, 791
School dropout	508, 510, 513, 515
Science award	904
Science India	198
Science institute	515

Science research	612-20	South Asia politics	32-44	Suu Kyi, Aungh San	730
Science	193-232	South East Asia	486	Swaminathan, MS	730, 556-67
Science, firsts	804	South Korea	376	Swaziland	447
Scouts & guides	492	Space first	473	Sweden	447-48
Sea microbes	195	Space India	182-88, 611	Switzerland	448-50
Sealed authority	483	Space India milestones	188	Synonyms	795
Seas	251	Space laboratory	237	Syria	450
Seasons	256-57	Space launching centres	241		
Secretariat, UN	481	Space, firsts	804-05		
Secretary General, UN	482	Spain	440-41, 50		
Securities market	588	Spanish civil war	866		
Security Council	480	Speaker Address	956		
Seed vault	449	Species endangered	941-43		
Seismic scale	254	Speilberg, Steven	729		
Sen, Amartya	726	Spelling Bee	845		
Sen, Binayak	61-62	Spices Board	958		
Senegal	430-31	Spitz, Mark Andrew	995		
Sepoy mutiny	863-64, 887	Sports	959-1009		
Serbia	431-32, 57-58	Sports award India	993		
Seven wonders	891-92	Sports award Laureus	992		
Sex ratio India	626-74, 142	Sports coaching	516		
Sex ratio	551	Sports drug	991-92		
Sexual disease	226	Sports events	1000-09		
Seychelles	432-33	Sports records	997-1000		
Shakespeare, William	950	Sports rising stars	986-87		
Shanghai corporation	492	Sports, firsts	801-02		
Rare market	588	Sri Lanka chronology	78		
Ship INS Delhi	893	Sri Lanka	441-43, 872, 42-43, 30		
Shipping India	606-07	Sridhar, Anup	995		
Hiva, Vandana	728	Srinivasan, Sethuraman	493-502		
Sierra Leone	433-34	St. Lucia	444		
Sikh Guru	700	St. Vincent	444-45		
Sikkim	659-60	St. Kitts Nevis	443-44		
Silicon valley	792	Staff selection com	521		
Singapore	434-35	Stalin, Joseph	729		
Singh, Amarinder	64-65	Stamp collection	1010-22		
Singh, Manmohan	728	Stars	236		
Singh, Manmohan	932	Stars, distance	246		
Skin	219	States India	621-74		
Slovakia	435-36	States reorganisation	621-24, 548		
Slovenia	436	States, USA	465-66		
Slum dwellers	491	States, world	290-478		
Smoking	410, 466, 830, 150	Stem cell research	624		
Sobriquets	923-25	Stock exchange first	589		
Social networks	284-85	Stop Press (latest)	1020		
Society India	578-83	Stroke signs	228		
Solar eclipse	246	Subbulakshmi MS	730, 729		
Solar energy	269	Sudan	445-46		
Solar statistics	240	Sudarsan, ECG	730		
Solar system	238-47	Sultanpuri, Majrooh	736		
Solomon Island	436-37	Sun	239-41, 247		
Somalia	437	Supercomputer	197		
Song, National	532	Supreme court India	160		
Soren	64	Surgery longest	914		
South Africa	438-40, 57-58	Suriname	446-47		

T

Table Tennis	982
Tagore, Rabindranath	730
Taiwan	477-78
Tajikistan	450-51
Tallest buildings	893
Tamil Nadu	660-62
Tanzania	451-52
Tashkent agreement	545
Tata Nano car	61-62
Tea, green	217
Olive oil	217
Telecommunication union	484
Telescope	260
Television colour	547
Television	605
Temple states	626-74
Tendulkar, Sachin	731
Tennis	978-79
Tennis India	973-74
Tennis, match fixing	983-84
Teresa, Mother	731
Terms, definition	766-95
Terrorism Asia	32-38, 58
Terrorism World	846-52
Terrorist attacks	852
Thailand	452-53, 126
Tharappan, Sunney	504-10
Thatcher, Margaret	731
Theatre India	598-603
Thekkady	645
Three worlds	413
Tibet	59, 38-40
Time accuracy	608
Time chart, nations	953
Time, IST	532
Timor, East	342
Tobacco resolutions	945
Tobacco	830
Tobago	455
TOEFL	519
Togo	453-54
Tomato	217
Tonga	454-55
Touch screen	280
Tourism medical	572-77



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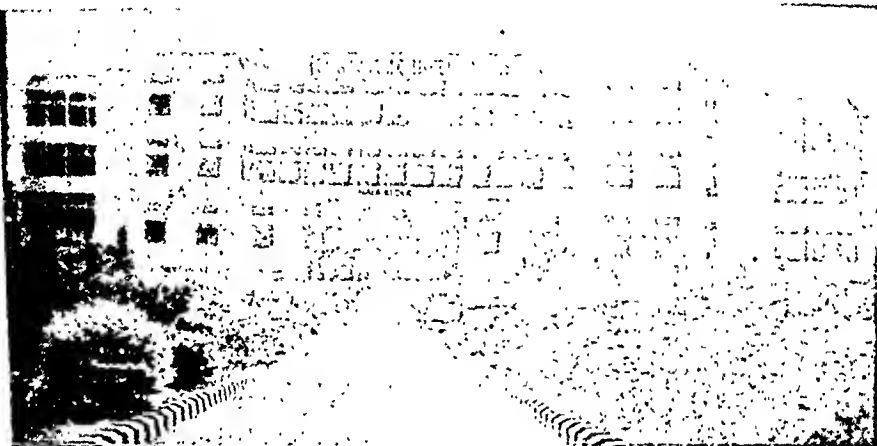
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Tower tallest	893
Towns States	626-74
Towns World	738-58
Toys, toxic	196
TRAJ address	957
Transport States	626-74
Transport, firsts	805
Transportation	606-08
Tree, tallest	828
Trenches	252
Tribes India	549
Trinidad Tobago	455
Tripura	662-63, 68
Trusteeship council	480
Tumour	226-27
Tunisia	455-56
Turkey	456-57, 55-56
Turkish Cyprus	474, 50
Turkmenistan	457-58
Turmeric	217
Tutu, Desmond	733
Tuvalu	458-59
Twentieth century wars	866

U

UAE	461-62
Uganda	459-60, 825
UGC address	956
UK Prime Ministers	922
UK	462-64
Ukraine	460-61
Ulysses	239
Umpiring	992-93
UN members	291-95
UNDP	481
UNEP	481-82
UNESCO	483, 486
UNHCR	482
UNICEF	481
UNIDO	482, 494
Union territory	621, 669-74
United Arab Emirates	461-62
United Kingdom	462-64
United Nations	479-85
United States	464-67
Universe	234-38
Universe, origin	860-62
UNO	479-85
Upanishads	946
UPSC Address	957
UPSC exams	520-21
UPU	484
Uranium mining	206
Uranus	246

Urban population	551
URL	794
Uruguay	468
USA economy	872
USA Presidents	921
USA	68, 464-67
USB	794
Usha, PT	733
Uttar Pradesh	665-67
Uttarakhand	663-65
Uzbekistan	468-69

V

Vajpayee, AB	733
Vande mataram	532
Vanuatu	469-70
Varghese, Mohan	846-52
Vatican city	478
Vedas	931
Vehicle India	538
Venezuela	470
Vernacular press	794
Veterinary exam	524
Vice Presidents India	929
Vietnam war	868
Vietnam	471
Vigilance commission	957
Vijay Amritraj	961
Vijayan IM	984
Vijayaraghavan, G	612-20
Villages India	626-74
Viral disease	226
Viral fever	230
Virgin islands	467
Virus, computer	287
Vitamin	216-18, 225, 385
Vivekananda, Swami	734
Vocabulary English	823-45
Vodka	459
Volcano	454, 255-56

W

Wangchuk, Jigme KN 706, 56, 41	
War photography	302
Warrior BS	518-26
Wars, famous	863-66
Waste	212-14
Water pollution	374
Water projects	656
Water	216
Waterfalls	252
Watershed India	529
Waterways inland	607
Web 1-2-3	283

Webcasting	
Website	
West Bengal	661
West Indies	
Wettest place	
WHO	
Whos who	676-
Williams, Venus	
Wimax	
Wimbledon	
Winds	
Winfrey, Oprah	736, 694, 7
Wireless computer	279, 1
Women defence	609-
Women Governors	9
Women MPs	947, 9
Women Olympians India	9
Women rulers	9
Women workers	516-
Women, Chief Minister	9
Women's commission	9
Wonders, world	891-5
Words English	823-45, 5
Words in pairs	84
Words music	91
Workers women	516-1
World 200746-59, 32-43, 86-13	
World Bank	483, 868-6
World economy	867-73, 493-9
World events 2007	86-131
World organisations	479-49
World outdoor record	999-1000
World war I	863, 864, 451
World war II	865
World	289-502
Writers English	596-97
WTO	485
WWW	795

Y

Yalta conference	479
Year 2007	86-180, 1000-09
Year of potato	420
Yemen	472
Yugoslavia	431, 732
Yunus, Mohammed	737

Z

Zaire see Congo, DR	
Zambia	472-73
Zero hour	795
Zika virus	231
Zimbabwe	473-74, 476

Indexing P. Unnikrishnan

